WEDNESDAY
April 5, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

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Looking back is the best way to look forward.

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RIGHT TO HEALTH BILL

Rajasthan doctors call off protest, sign pact

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FATALITIES IN SIKKIM

Seven killed as avalanche hits Nathu La

NEWS » PAGE 8

HISTORIC ENTRY

Finland becomes the 31st member of NATO

WORLD » PAGE 11

CONTROLLED DIGITAL LENDING

What is key is the larger issue of public interest

Legal tussle in the U.S. will have an impact

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

WORLD BANK FORECAST

India's growth pared to 6.3% this fiscal

NEWS » PAGE 8

NEARBY

Cow vigilantism: accused on the run, posts video

BENGALURU
Pressure is mounting on the police to nab Puneeth Kerehalli, now accused of murder in an act of cow vigilantism, even as he is still at large and posted a video on his social media. » PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Security issues on table as PM meets Bhutan King

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel and Narendra Modi discuss 'entire gamut' of ties and progress in boundary talks between China and Bhutan, particularly about Doklam, says Foreign Secretary

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and Bhutan remain in "close coordination" over all security matters, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said on Tuesday. He indicated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck discussed the latest situation along the India-Bhutan border as well as the progress in boundary talks between China and Bhutan, particularly above the Doklam trijunction point, during a meeting in Delhi.

Responding to a number of questions about the possibility of a boundary deal between China and Bhutan that could negatively impact India's strategic interests in the region, Mr. Kwatra told presspersons that the two leaders had discussed the "entire gamut" of bilateral cooperation and issues of national and regional interests, and that the two countries share an "exemplary" relationship of "trust, goodwill and mutual understanding".

However, Mr. Kwatra declined to comment on any specific details of the conversation between Mr. Modi and the Bhutanese King relating to the latest developments between Thimphu and Beijing, or to a statement by Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering that a demarcation line could be drawn on disputed areas to Bhutan's north with China within the next couple of rounds of border talks.

Bilateral cooperation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in Delhi. ANI

'Shared interests'

"India and Bhutan remain in close touch and close coordination relating to our shared national interests including security interests," Mr. Kwatra said at a briefing after the meeting. He said that India had noted comments made by Mr. Tshering in an interview last week, adding that New Delhi has reiterated its position that any questions over the trijunction between India, China and Bhutan would be resolved "trilaterally".

The Bhutanese King met with Mr. Modi on Tuesday morning for talks.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

'Invented names' will not alter reality of Arunachal, says India

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday rejected China's renaming of several places in Arunachal Pradesh, saying "invented names" will not affect the status of Indian sovereignty over the region. The official response came a day after China issued a list of 11 places it will "standardise" in Arunachal Pradesh.

"This is not the first time China has made such an attempt. We reject this outright. Arunachal Pradesh is, has been, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. Attempts to assign invented names will not alter this reality," official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. This is the third time that China has attempted to rename parts of Arunachal Pradesh. In 2017, China's Ministry of Civil Aviation issued a similar list of six places, and in 2021, released a list of 15 renamed places it sought to rename.

The matter has also drawn attention of the Congress, which has accused Prime Minister Modi of giving a "clean chit to China in June 2020" after the Galwan clashes.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

China 'freezes' visas of 2 Indian journalists

NEW DELHI
In a surprising move, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to "freeze" the visas of two Indian journalists based in Beijing, indicating that more "counter measures" could follow against other Indian journalists, unless New Delhi offers reciprocal visa and tenure terms to Chinese journalists in India. » PAGE 8

14 flights diverted from Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds in and around the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Tuesday evening that lasted more than an hour impacted flight operations at the airport.

As many as 14 flights were diverted, said airport officials. "There was an impact on operations due to strong cross winds and heavy rains with thunder and lightning," they said.

Of the 14 flights, 12 were diverted to Chennai, one to Coimbatore and another to Hyderabad. Seven were Indigo flights, three Vistara, two Akasa, one Air India and one Go First.

Vistara said its Goa to Bengaluru and Delhi to Bengaluru flights were diverted to Chennai, and another flight from Goa was diverted to Hyderabad.

MANY ROADS FLOODED
» PAGE 2

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's goods exports rise in FY23 as compared to FY22

447 In $ billion. The Commerce and Industry Minister said that services exports are estimated to cross $320 billion in 2022-23. The final export and import data for 2022-23 would be released in the middle of April. PTI

The number of applications for CUET-undergraduate

14 lakh applications. UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said that the Common University Entrance Test-undergraduate has seen a 41% rise in the applications received from last year. The CUET-UG is the second largest entrance test in India. PTI

The ONGC's investment to boost oil and gas production

7 In $ billion. Up to 24 field development, enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and improved oil recovery (IOR) projects are currently in progress that will further help reverse the declining trend in oil and gas production, the company's director informed. PTI

Biden offers funds for clean energy projects at coal mine sites

450 In $ million. As part of the U.S. administration's ongoing efforts to combat climate change five projects, including solar farms, will be funded nationwide through the 2021 infrastructure law. AP

The rise in passenger vehicle retail sales in March, says FADA

14 In percentage. Riding on the back of an improved supply of electronic components, domestic passenger vehicle registrations rose to 3.35 lakh units last month, from 2.93 lakh units in March 2022. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On Twitter's open-source promise

Why has the richest man in the world made the recommendation algorithm of Twitter open to the public? How has the open-source community reacted to Elon Musk's reveal of the source-code? How does the micro-blogging site's algorithm function?

EXPLAINER

John Xavier

The story so far:
Elon Musk has partly delivered on his promise of making Twitter's algorithm open source. On April 1, the micro-blogging site's recommendation code was made public. Developers can now modify and make improvements to the code. Mr. Musk's long-awaited decision has brought him both boos and cheers from different corners of the developer community.

What does Twitter's algorithm do?
At the heart of Twitter's business model is the recommendation algorithm. It is a set of rules that enables the platform to deliver content based on users' interests and preferences. It is with the help of this system that advertisers promote their brands. Content flows into a user's timeline through two channels. One pipeline channels content posted by people that the user follows and the other is filled with posts flowing from accounts that could potentially interest the user.

The latter timeline, called 'For You', acts as a predictive tool to suggest feeds that a user may be interested in. It helps the micro-blogging site find answers to questions like – what is the probability a user will engage with another user in the future, what communities on Twitter might a user be interested in and what tweets are trending within them. Answers to such questions help the platform recommend relevant content.

How does the algorithm work?
Twitter's recommendation algorithm runs on a three-step process. First, it fetches tweets from multiple recommendation sources. The platform calls this process 'candidate sourcing'. After sourcing these tweets, a machine learning model ranks them. After ranking, tweets are filtered to remove those that a user may have blocked, or has already seen.

At the sourcing stage, the algorithm mixes tweets that eventually flow into a user's 'For You' timeline. To mix, it picks 'candidates' from people a user follows, and from those they do not. It calls these two sources as 'in-network' and 'out-network', and together they make up 50/50 of the mix. Twitter says that for each request it attempts to extract the top 1,500 tweets from a pool of hundreds of millions. The in-network part is quite easy to build as information is picked in real-time from people a user follows. But out-network sourcing is trickier as the platform must pick content from candidates the user does not follow.

To do this, Twitter uses what it calls social graph and embedded spaces. The former creates a stream of candidates based on what content followers of a user engage with. And the latter matches the profile of a user with a cluster that exhibits similar interests and preferences as the user.

Once this is done, using a 48M parameter neural network that is continuously trained on tweet engagement, the platform starts ranking feeds.

REUTERS

What has been the reaction?
After Twitter open sourced its recommendation algorithm, many people flocked to GitHub to view the code. Some see this reveal as "a step in the right direction for the future of humanity." Others note that the code does not reveal much about how it is used by the platform. They also highlight that important bits of information have been left out. For instance, the absence of information on the data it uses to build these pipelines prevents one from having a complete picture of the platform's recommendation system. A report by Fortune, citing a former Twitter executive, points out that open sourcing any algorithm requires its training set to be open sourced as well. And that is impossible for Twitter to do. "Every effort in open-sourcing the algorithm without the data is completely dishonest," the executive said.

Why did Musk open the source code?
Mr. Musk is no philanthropist. He is gradually building Twitter as a place for privileged users who can pay for verification tick marks and get additional features, including a higher ranking in the feeds. Additionally, he is making these changes at a time when he has fired most of the company's technical staff.

Social media platforms need experienced developers to keep building new features and deploying them successfully. So, perhaps, Mr. Musk thinks opening the source code to external developers could potentially solve the human resource bottleneck. But it will be a tough road as Mr. Musk has damaged Twitter's reputation in the open-source community. As Will Norris, Twitter's former open-source lead told *ZDNet*, "They've lost all credibility as a serious engineering organisation, I don't care how much you call yourself "hardcore." Open-source communities are built on relationships and trust, and now Twitter has neither with these groups. They've lost any ability to participate meaningfully in those communities."

THE GIST

- On April 1, Twitter's recommendation code was made public. Developers can now modify and make improvements to the code.
- Social media platforms need experienced developers to keep building new features and deploying them successfully. Therefore, Mr. Musk might think opening the source code to external developers could potentially solve the human resource bottleneck. But it will be a tough road as Mr. Musk has damaged Twitter's reputation in the open source community.
- Some see this reveal as "a step in the right direction for the future of humanity." Others note that the code does not reveal much about how it is used by the platform

What was discussed at the UN water conference?

What did the report titled 'Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028' recommend? What is the most common cause for groundwater over-abstraction?

Veena Srinivasan

The story so far:
The United Nations 2023 Water Conference held on March 22-24 was the first such meeting in 46 years. In a recent report entitled 'Water for Sustainable Development 2018 - 2028', the UN recognised the urgent need for action given that we are not on track to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for water – "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all".

What is the water conference?
The water sector is prone to fragmentation because water problems tend to be local. If a particular lake is polluted or a particular area is often flooded, it needs local solutions. Therefore, there is an inherent problem in mobilising globally for local problems. The last UN Water Conference, held in 1977, was groundbreaking as it resulted in the first global 'Action Plan' recognising that "all peoples, whatever their stage of development and social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs."

This declaration led to several decades of global funding and concerted effort to lower the population without access to safe drinking water.

What are the current challenges?
Extending services to underserved populations is relatively uncontroversial: it comes down to finding the money to pay for it. This is already occurring in India through programmes such as the Swachh Bharat Mission and the Jal Jeevan Mission. However, the challenge is that improving access to water and sanitation no longer translates directly to sustained access to water and sanitation. For example, many drinking water projects have failed because they drew too much groundwater or the water sources were contaminated, leaving communities again with no access to water.

Groundwater over-abstraction is mostly driven by agricultural pumping. The only way to solve this problem in heavily irrigated places like Punjab is to pump less. This would need a policy change which requires many agencies and ministries to cooperate. As such, the water problem is no longer about access to water. The remaining SDG targets pertain to sustainable agriculture, industry, and natural ecosystems. These targets are harder as they need, among other things, tough political choices and a stronger democracy.

What are the key commitments?
This year's conference resulted in 713 voluntary commitments by philanthropic donors, governments, corporations, and NGOs. This included a $50-billion commitment from India to improve rural drinking water services under the Jal Jeevan Mission. On the technology front, apart from specific innovations in wastewater treatment, there were several proposals for incubation platforms focusing on water management.

There are already many solutions for knowledge-sharing and thus, we need to accelerate cross-learning. A notable tool here was the W12+ Blueprint, a UNESCO platform hosting city profiles and case studies of programs, technologies, policies that addresses common water security challenges. An effort called 'Making Rights Real' offered to help marginalised communities and women understand how to exercise their rights. Similarly, the 'Water for Women Fund' offered mechanisms for more effective and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene outcomes for women. However, whether these commitments will become binding through the COP process, only time will tell.

The writer is the Executive Director of Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs.

THE GIST

- The water sector is prone to fragmentation because water problems tend to be local. Therefore, there is an inherent problem in mobilising globally for local problems.
- The conference resulted in 713 voluntary commitments by philanthropic donors, governments, corporations, and NGOs. This included a $50-billion commitment from India to improve rural drinking water services under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The last UN Water Conference, held in 1977, was groundbreaking as it resulted in the first global 'Action Plan'.

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Seepage of rainwater in newly inaugurated stations of Whitefield metro line troubles passengers

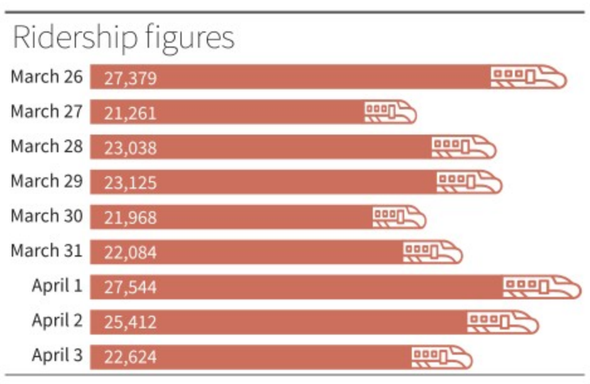
Many people were surprised at the extent of the seepage and some said the stations should not have been opened without properly completing the work. Engineers are checking the reasons for it, says BMRCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Tuesday evening, heavy rain in the eastern part of Bengaluru exposed chinks in some of the metro stations of the newly inaugurated Whitefield line. Passengers were put to inconvenience as water seeped in from the roof and water stagnated on the platform and concourse.

Whitefield Raising shared videos on Twitter of passengers walking on the concourse of Nallurahalli metro station that had stagnant rainwater. Metro workers were seen removing water using buckets. A woman is heard saying in the video, "Rainwater flowing down from the platform area from the top. People are filling buckets with rainwater. Thankfully I did not bring my parents by metro." People complained that water seepage was causing inconvenience to passengers at Pattandur Agrahara station and Krishnarajapura.

Rainwater at the Nallurhalli metro station in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Responding to the video, Shanoj Devassay said, "This is what one can expect when metro stations are opened in a hurry without properly completing the work." A Whitefield Rising member who was at the station said, "The platform had water coming down from gaps on the roof and the floor below. Water was pouring down the sides and along the inner wall of the station. Certainly not safe for travellers, especially if running to catch a train. A leak or two is still possible when something is brand new. But water coming from so many places was surprising."

The 13 km metro line from K.R. Pura to Whitefield was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on March 25. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited opened 12 metro stations on the line for commercial operations.

Chief PRO of BMRCL B.L. Yeshwanth Chavan said, "Our engineers are checking the reasons for rainwater entering the concourse. Expansion joints in the platform areas are being checked. All necessary action will be taken to fix the problem."

Patronage

Metro officials say the newly inaugurated metro line is being used by 23,000 to 24,000 passengers per day. The footfall is higher on weekends compared to weekdays. The highest number of passengers (27,544) travelled on April 1 (Saturday) after the opening of the line.

"Between K.R. Pura and Whitefield metro stations, we are receiving decent patronage. Once the entire line from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield is opened to the public, there will be a drastic jump in the ridership." At present, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is providing feeder services between Byappanahalli to K.R.Pura metro stations. Every day the BMTC operates 250 trips between two stations.

A BMTC official said, "We are exclusively running feeder services for the benefit of metro passengers between two stations. Every day 7,000 to 8,000 metro passengers use feeder services to reach the metro stations."

After the inauguration of the line, metro passengers had demanded the authorities to introduce a robust feeder service between Baiyappanahalli and K.R.Pura station. They also demanded for introduction of feeder services from newly opened stations between K.R.Pura and Whitefield. Officials said there is no immediate plans to run feeder services from other newly opened stations.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 5, Wednesday), the following explainer is available:

- What was the U.N. water conference and what happened there? **bit.ly/waterconferenceun**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Half an hour of rain leaves parts of Bengaluru flooded

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Just around 30 minutes of rain on Tuesday led to flooding in many parts of Bengaluru and disruption of traffic movement.

People were seen wading through inundated roads in Varthur, while flooding was reported in Kadubeesanahalli, leading to traffic jams.

Bengaluru traffic police on Tuesday evening tweeted, "Due to waterlogging, there is congestion at Varthur Kodi road and Kadubeesanahalli. Please avoid these roads." Traffic snarls were reported in Varthur, Bellandur, Outer Ring Road, Whitefield and surrounding areas.

Sandeep Anirudhan, a local resident, said on Twitter, "As predicted, flooding on Whitefield Main Road. Any marks for guessing why? Because our lakes and rajakaluves and buffer zones of both are encroached upon. And no improvement since the last floods!"

As per the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the city received 11.54 mm of rainfall on Tuesday. The maximum temperature was recorded at 24.9 degrees Celsius.

According to the KSNDMC, the highest rainfall recorded was 39 mm at Mallasandra, Dasarahalli Zone, till 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

According to rainfall forecast by the KSNDMC, scattered to fairly widespread to very light to moderate rains are likely over parts of South Interior Karnataka. Dry weather conditions are likely to prevail over the remaining regions.

Citizens complain of frequent power cuts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While complaints of power cuts during monsoons are common, they have started early with the summer showers. Although the Bescom, along with other escoms, had promised that there would be no load-shedding this summer, citizens are not happy with the frequent power interruptions.

"The moment there is rain, there is a power interruption. While it is understandable during monsoon, why are there interruptions even with these light rains? ," said Lily D., a resident of Malleshpalya.

Bescom officials said while load shedding will not take place, small interruptions cannot be stopped. "There is a difference between load shedding and general power interruptions. In summer, sometimes some of old wires get heated and break down. During strong winds and rains, something similar happens. But we work on fixing it immediately," said a senior official of Bescom.

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GENERAL

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LALITHA A.M R/o Horamavu, Bangalore, have changed my minor son's name from Aarav Mishra to Aarav Jaye vide affidavit dated 30/3/23 sworn before notary K.V.Mani, B'lore

I Nirmala basgi D/O, Laxman Basgi R/o Ho No -177,4th Cross, royal Residency Layout, btm 4th Stage, Hulimavu, Banglore have changed my name to Nirmala for all purposes.

I, LALITHA A.M R/o Horamavu, Bangalore, have changed my minor son's name from Aarush Mishra to Aarush Leejay vide affidavit dated 30/3/23 sworn before notary K.V.Mani, Bangalore

I, VATSALA Bai is legally dependent of No.13625731W Hav Ahirrao Yogesh Bajirao, presently residing at Vpo-Pilkos, Teh-Kalwan, Dist-Nasik(MH), Pin-423501 have changed my name from Vatsala Bai to Vatsala Bajirao Aher vide affidavit dated 03-04-2023 before Notary Vijay Kumar, Saharapur.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Suresh Thangarajan S/o Thangarajan Ponnusami, residing at A101, Sanvi Sankalpam Apartment, Nagondanahalli Village, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560066, have changed the name of minor Daughter S Naveena aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as S Shailaja for all purposes in future.

I, AHIRRAO Bajirao Raghunath is legally dependent of No.13625731W HAV Ahirrao Yogesh Bajirao, presently residing at Vpo-Pilkos, Teh-Kalwan, Dist- Nasik(MH), Pin-423501 have changed my name from Ahirrao Bajirao Raghunath to Bajirao Ragunath Aher vide affidavit dated 03-04-2023 before Notary Vijay Kumar Saharanpur.

I, RIHANA Begum Dastgir Sab Nadaf residing at Flat No. B,106, Grand Gandharva Apartment #40/1A, Kenchenahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098 have changed my name to Pooja Ramachandra Bharati Vide Affidavit dated: 25-03-2023 Sworn before Notary N.Sandhya, Bangalore

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O.S. No. 26531/2019
BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Promod G,
Aged about 46 years,
S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF
AND:
Mrs. LAVANURU ARUNA
D/o. Srinivasa Reddy
Aged about 32 years
56, Lakshmi Nilayam,
Yashodamma Layout,
Opp. Micro LABS Kudlu
Cluster 1, Bangalore- 560068
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 7,71,542.94/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Five Hundred Fourty Two and paisa Ninety Four Only)** apart from future interest of 8% p.a., in **O.S. No. 26531/2019** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 21,** Before Addl. City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court, on the 15th day of June 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 25th day of March, 2023.

By order of the court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES,
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BENGALURU- 560 005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients intends to purchase the under-mentioned Schedule Property from Mr. S. RAMACHANDRAN, Aged about 64 years, S/o. Late V. Sekharan Nair, Residing at Munduvilakathu Veedu, Karumom, Thiruvananthapuram, PIN – 695002, Kerala, who claims to be the absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property with a valid, absolute subsisting marketable title, free from all encumbrances and claims.
Any person/s financial Institution predecessor-in-title or their heirs having any legitimate claim, right, title or interest over the Schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or against the owner of the schedule property or objecting to the sale in favour of my client should contact the undersigned in writing **within 10 days** (Ten Days) of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights, after which period any claim or objection will not be binding over the schedule property.

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Sd/- **Sri Vinay Paul T.K.**, Advocate,
Place:Bengaluru, **'U & V Legal'**, Chambers: FF2, 'Gokul Towers',
Dated :04.04.2023 No. 86 ,M.S.R. Road, Gokula, Bangalore - 560 054.
Cell-9148945647, Email:vinaypaultk@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **SRI.D.N.SURESH** S/o Sri.D.K.Nagaraj and his wife **SMT.MEERA SURESH,** residing at No.65/6, 21st Cross, 3rd Main, 6th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 082.
If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.10** (CITB/BDA Site No.248), PID No.62-124-10, measuring East to West 60ft and North to South 40ft, in all measuring 2400 Sq.ft, with a building thereon, situated at 4th Main, 1st Block Jayanagar, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Trust Board Land
West by : 10th 'D' Main (4th Main Road)
North by : Site No.247
South by : Trust Board Land

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

FORM – II

EMBASSY CLASSIC PVT. LTD.

No. 101/102, Embassy Chambers, 5, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560001

Notice under sub-section (2) of Section 15 of Electricity Act,

1. The Embassy Classic Pvt. Ltd., ("ECPL") the company/applicant above-named, is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (the applicant) has made an application under sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Category-V license for inter State trading in electricity in all regions across India before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi. The necessary details in respect of the applicant are given hereunder:

i) Authorized issued, subscribed and paid-up capital:

a)	Authorised share capital
	INR 2,00,00000/-
b)	Issued share capital
	INR 2,00,00000/-
c)	Subscribed share capital
	INR 2,00,00000/-
d)	Paid-up share capital
	INR 2,00,00000/

ii) Shareholding pattern (indicate the details of the shareholders holding 5% of more shares)

Name of Shareholder	Jaikishen Virwani
Citizenship	Indian
Residential Status	#11, Embassy Palace, Near
	RI Quarters No. 16,
	Cunningham Road, Bangalore,
	560052, Karnataka, India
No. of Shares	19,99,800
Shareholding %	99.99%

iii) Financial and technical strength: ECPL has requisite financial strength and experienced team. Owing to its large presence in the real estate, it already has sound experience and technological know-how to efficiently manage and run the organization. Further, it has sufficient financial strength to undertake power trading business. ECPL has full-time professionals having industry expertise in the power sector including power trading, regulatory affairs and finance.

iv) Management profile of the application including details of past experiences of the applicant and/ or the persons on the management of the applicant in generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity of similar activity:

K G Vijayvargia has two decades of techno-commercial experience and experience of 15 years in system operations, EPC business and power trading for various industries in the diverse field of energy sector (renewable, thermal, oil and gas). Mr. Vijayvargia has extensive expertise in the entire process of setting Solar PV projects including Solar Park structures and energy risk management.

Previously, he has facilitated developers in power bidding, trading of power, securing corporate PPAs, land acquisition, government approvals, power evacuation amongst others. Mr. Vijayvargia is experienced in the EPC business and construction of over 200 MWp of end-to-end solar projects with O& M of over 100 MWp of assets. Mr. Vijayvargia acquired B.E. (Mechanical) from Engineering College, Kota, University of Rajasthan in the year 1995 and has MBA (International Business) from ICFAI University in 2012.

Padmavathi T.N. has two decades of experience in the field of finance, commerce and accounts and has worked for several leading industries. Her expertise ranges from maintaining books of accounts to finalization of accounts. She is also proficient in statutory compliances/ requirements to be met by the companies. She has previously worked with ING Vysa Bank Limited, Bangalore and M/s Floraison India Compliances Pvt. Ltd. Since 2011 she has been working as a Senior Accountant with Embassy Group.

Padmavathi T.N. completed her Bachelor of Commerce from Acharya Pathshala College of Commerce in the year 1999 and her Master Degree in Commerce from Mysore University in the year 2001. She acquired her MBA in Finance from Symbiosis, Pune in 2006.

v) Volume of electricity intended to be traded during the first year after grant of license and future plants of the application to expand volume of trading: Upto 500 Mus

vi) Geographical areas within which the applicant will undertake trading in electricity: Across India

vii) Net worth as on 31st March of three consecutive years immediately preceding the year of application or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application: (values in INR)

Date	Net worth
31st March 2023	INR 17,88,33,190/-
31st March 2022	INR 16,58,57,586/-
31st March 2021	INR 15,53,67,643/-
31st March 2020	INR 13,76,23,489/-

viii) Year-wise current ratio and liquidity ratio of the applicant for three years preceding the year in which the application is made, or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application:

Date	Current Ratio	Liquidity Ratio
01.03.2023	14.75	2.55
31.03.2022	1.46	1.46
31.03.2021	1.24	0.19
31.03.2020	1.24	0.17

ix) (a) ECPL is authorized to undertake trading in electricity under the Main Objects clause of its Memorandum of Association.

(b) the said clause reads as:

[A] The main objects to be perused by the company on its incorporation:

.....

3 To establish and carry on the business of trading in electricity and act as a trader in *sale and purchase of electricity and electrical energy in any form and in any market* *including power exchange and derivatives market, and by any process and in any fuel, derivatives including but not limited to renewable energy certificates, carbon credits, energy conservation certificates, financially traded electricity forwards, or by products connected with or related to the generation and supply of electrical energy, enter into demand side management contracts, energy conservation contracts including energy performance contracts, megawatt contracts, enter into contracts for banking of electricity in accordance with the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003 or any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof and rules or regulations made thereunder, to operate as an energy trading company and to get registered with appropriate agency including Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Efficiency or any other authority under the framework of Energy Conservation Act, 2001 and do all acts and things necessary or required for doing aforesaid business, including providing advisory and consultancy in issues related to energy trading of energy. Further undertake consultancy in power management and provide all ancillary services relating to power trading and all type of services and consultancy in power trading and power management."*

x) Details of cases, if any, where the applicant or any of his associates, or partner, or promoters, or Directors has been declared insolvent and has not been discharged: **NONE**

xi) Details of cases, if any, in which the Applicant or any of his Associates or partners or promoters or Directors has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, fraud or any economic offence during the previous three years preceding the year of making the application and the year of making the applicant and the date of release of the above person from imprisonment, if any, consequent to such conviction: **NONE**

Name of the person: N/A
Relationship with the Applicant: N/A
Nature of offence: N/A
Date of conviction: N/A

xii) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever refused license, and if so, the detailed particular of the application, date of making application, date of order refusing license and reasons for such refusal: NO

xiii) Whether the Applicant has been granted a license for transmission of electricity: NO

xiv) Whether an order cancelling the license of the Applicant, or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors has been passed by the Commission: NO

xv) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters, or Directors was ever found guilty in any proceedings for contravention noncompliance of any of the provisions of the Act or the rules or the regulations made there under or an order made by the Appropriate Commission, during the year of making the application or five years immediately preceding that year? NO

2. The application made and other documents filed before the Commission are available for inspection by any person with Padmavathi T.N, working as the Senior Accountant, No. 101/102, Embassy Chambers, 5, Vittal Mallya Road Bangalore, Karnataka, India – 560001, email: padma@embassybuilders.net and telephone: +91 9535853072.

3. The application made and other documents filed before the Commission have been posted on: www.embassybuilders.net

4. Objections or suggestions, if any, on the application made before the Commission may be sent to the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001; E-mail: secy@cercind.gov.in within 30 days of publication of this notice, with a copy to the applicant.

5. No objections or suggestions shall be considered by the Commission if received after expiry of 30 days of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
Date: 05.04.2023 **Mr. Jaikishen Virwani**
Place: Bangalore **Director,**
Embassy Classic Pvt. Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mr.A.L.Sunder Raj, son of Late A.Lakshminarayana Shetty,** has lost the Original Sale Deed dated 15.04.2005, registered as Document No.215, of Book I, stored in CD.No.GAND42, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar and Original General Power of Attorney dated 12.04.2005, registered as Document No.30/-2005 (1927 SEE) of Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Charminar Hyderabad, in respect of the schedule property. My client has informed that inspite of his best efforts he was unable to trace the same and has also lodged an online police complaint on dated 03.04.2023 in respect of the same.
If any Person/s find the aforesaid original Sale Deed and GPA, they may handover the same to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of this publication.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of a property bearing Municipal **Nos.22 & 23,** (Old No.1 & 1/A), situated at **Madar Saab Lane, Arcot Srinivasachar Street Cross, Bangalore** measuring East to West on northern side 71 feet, southern side 72 feet, North to South on the eastern side 91 feet, western side 91 feet, in all measuring **6530 sq.ft.,** together with the 4200 square feet building, bounded on :
East by Property No.59, West by Property belonging to Attar Syed Rahman Hussain, North by Dawlat Market, South by Madar Saab Lane.

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845090974

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. Rathnamma w/o Mr. Chikknna B. C** R/at. Bhoodevi Nilaya, Near Kabbalamma Temple, Byadrahalli, Bangalore-560 0091 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property mentioned below in the Schedule and she has lost/misplaced the Original Sale deed bearing Document No.BLN-1-20913/2004-05, stored in CD No.BLND40, dated 30-07-2004, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar office, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 04-04-2023. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitable awarded, and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.33,** Katha No.700, situated at **2nd Stage, in the layout formed by the B.E.L. Housing Building Co-operative Society Ltd,** in Assessment No.70/3 of **Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore, North Taluk,** measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 50 feet in all measuring **1000 square feet** and bounded on:
East by : Site No.34; West by : Site No.32; North by : Road; South by : Site No.61;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Parlapalli Ganesh Reddy** S/o P. Narayana Reddy residing at #002, Skyline City Tower Block, Canara Bank, Colony, Chandra layout, Bangalore North, Bengaluru 560040 is intending to purchase the schedule properties from its vendors Maj. Gen. Dr. K. Jayakar Shetty s/o late P N Shetty, Dr. Sudhir Shetty S/o Maj. Gen. Dr. K. Jayakar Shetty and Ms. Kirti Shetty D/o Maj. Gen. Dr. K. Jayakar Shetty.
If any other person/s have any legal rights or title or claim or interest or demand of charge over the Schedule properties they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s with the undersigned along with related copies of the documents upon which they are relying, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
If no valid objection is received as aforesaid by the undersigned within time stipulated above, my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the said owners, no one else have any manner of claim over the Schedule properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1:- All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.7(SEVEN)** measuring **East to West 102 Feet** and **North to South 90 Feet** altogether **9180 Square Feet** situated at SATHNUR Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk presently under Sathnur Village Panchayath earlier under Kattigenahalli village Panchayath bearing Katha No.168 and bounded on
East by : 30 Feet Road, West by : Private Property now Site No.7A, North by : Site No.9, South by : Site No.5

Item No.2:- All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.7A(SEVEN 'A')** situated at SATHNUR Village, Sathnur Village Panchayathearlier Kattigenahalli village Panchayath bearing Katha No.35, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,
Measuring Towards East : 90'-0",
Towards West : 90'-0"
Towards North : 30'-0"
Towards South : 30'-0"
IN all measuring 2700 Square Feet and bounded on
East by : Site No.7, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No.9A, South by : Site No.5A

Contact:- **SRIKANTHAM .V.R,** Advocate
No.310, 60 ft Road, Talakaveri Layout Amruthahalli, Sahakaranagara post Bangalore 560092. Mob. 9845104859
E mail: srikanthamvr@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **our client, Mr. A.V. Satish,** S/o Late Mr. A. G. Venkatesan, residing at No. 808, Ground Floor, 19th Main, 19th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560 070 is the **absolute owner of the Site** bearing No. 3/A, East End Main Road, Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore.

Our Client was allotted the Site by the erstwhile **Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board *vide* Allotment Letter dated 30/01/1975 bearing No. D3 3/A IV T J/74-75.** Thereafter, Our Client was put in **possession of the Site and a Possession Certificate dated 07/04/1978 was issued.**

Thereafter, a **Lease Cum Sale Agreement dated 19/04/1978 registered as Document No. 792 of 1978-79 in Book- I with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar** was executed by the **Bangalore Development Authority in favour of our Client** in respect of the Site.

Thereafter, a **Sale Deed dated 07/12/1994 registered as Document No. 2937 of 1994-95 in Book-I with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar** was executed by the **Bangalore Development Authority in favour of our Client in respect of the Site.**

Our Client has **lost the Original Allotment Letter dated 30/01/1975, the Original Possession Certificate dated 07/04/1978, the Original Lease Cum Sale Agreement dated 19/04/1978 registered as Document No. 792 of 1978-79 in Book-I with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, and the Original Sale Deed dated 07/12/1994 registered as Document No. 2937 of 1994-95 in Book-I with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar. Our Client has lodged a complaint with the jurisdictional police on 11/09/2020 regarding the loss of the said original documents.**

Hence, all persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document and anybody who finds the aforesaid original document is requested to hand over the same to us at the address mentioned below.

Bhargava D Bhat,
Advocate,
Samya Law Chambers,
No. 327-328, 4th Floor,
K.P. Heights, 80 Feet Road,
Indiranagar, Bengaluru – 560 038.
Phone: (+91) 8296879810

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DEATH

UMA RAMANATHAN
attained heavenly abode on 29.03.2023
Dasasthu - 07.04.2023 at Gnanavapi, Kannammapet, Chennai 600017.

KEYWORD

No boundaries: Percussion players perform at the first ticketed event for Oppari music at the Music Academy in Chennai. RAGU. R

A 'casteless' society: an aspiration or a myth to cover up privilege?

In a 'casteless' society, people from different backgrounds would be treated with dignity and respect. However, Satish Deshpande argues that only upper castes are enabled to think of themselves as "casteless," while the under-privileged lower castes are often restricted to their caste identities

Thanmaya Prakash

Despite attempts to create an egalitarian and modern society, the caste system remains a prominent feature of Indian society. Historically, castes, which are often associated with certain occupations, were arranged in a hierarchy, with some castes considered superior to others and thus accorded more power and privileges than others. This system of social stratification and power relations has been a major problem in India as it has led to discrimination and inequality for those belonging to lower castes.

The idea of a 'casteless' society

The word 'casteless', simply refers to 'an individual who does not have a caste or is an outcaste'. Yet, its implications and manifestations as a social concept run much deeper. The term 'casteless' refers to the 'absence of caste' in society. It advocates for a society free of caste-based discrimination and oppression. It aims to create an inclusive society that provides equal opportunity for every individual regardless of inheritance and birth.

In a 'casteless' society, people from different backgrounds would be treated with dignity and respect. People would interact and work together freely, without caste-based discrimination or prejudices and everyone would have access to quality education, healthcare, and job opportunities irrespective of their caste or social status. Here a person's worth and success would be solely judged based on their abilities, character, and hard work rather than their social position

The idea of such a casteless society has been a goal that many, including social reformists, have aspired to achieve. However, the reality is that the caste system remains deeply ingrained in our society with roots that extend back thousands of years.

Is being casteless a myth?

The term 'casteless', as a sociological concept was popularised by M. N. Srinivas, an Indian sociologist who has written immensely about caste, sanskritisation and social stratification. Srinivas in his book *Caste in Modern India* argues that caste is a complex social structure that has adapted and changed throughout history but remains a powerful force in modern Indian society. One of Srinivas's key arguments is that the notion of being "casteless" is a myth in the Indian context. He explains that even though some people may claim to be casteless or advocate for a casteless society, they are often still influenced by caste in various ways.

For instance, many media houses, universities and corporate organisations are filled with people belonging to upper castes, especially in higher positions. Despite many claims to be casteless, employers belonging to upper castes tend to prefer hiring people of their own castes than people from the so-called lower castes.

The reality of caste

The concept of castelessness is a response to the discriminatory practices of the caste system. Yet, Indian sociologist Satish Deshpande, in his article "Caste and Castelessness: Towards a Biography of the 'General Category", argues that only upper castes are enabled to think of themselves as "casteless," while the under-privileged lower castes are often restricted to their caste identities.

The ideology of castelessness has successfully interpellated upper-caste subjects, enabling them to see their caste identities as incidental or irrelevant to their claims. However, it is presumptive because, in actuality, they do not have to give up their caste identities. They would automatically be presumed to be casteless if they did not explicitly invoke their caste. Therefore, they can retain their power and privilege while appearing to be casteless. Glimpses of caste pride among upper castes are witnessed in the caste surnames they carry, in their insistence to marry within their castes as well as through the caste associations and clubs they create. Caste identity and pride can be so deeply ingrained in an individual's upbringing and socialisation, that they may not even realize the extent to which it affects their thoughts and actions.

Upper-caste individuals are often able to attain better education and employment opportunities due to their sociocultural and economic privileges. It enables them to be seen as individuals who have achieved success through their hard work and merit while hiding the caste identity that helped them achieve it. On the other hand, lower caste individuals often face discrimination and barriers while accessing education and employment opportunities due to their caste identity. Moreover, in most cases, their caste identity overwrites all other identities, and thus, despite hard work, society may not grant them equal opportunities. This forces them to rely on their caste identity as a means of asserting their rights and claiming social and economic opportunities. As the Chief Justice of India, D. Y. Chandrachud said at the B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture, "Castelessness is a privilege that only the upper caste can afford because their caste privilege has already translated into social, political and economic capital".

Claims of castelessness, among the upper castes, thus seem like attempts to resist affirmative action policies that aim to redress historical injustices and promote social and economic equality for lower castes. Upper caste individuals claim the need for a casteless society by superficially arguing against reservation policies on claims that it encourages certain castes to identify primarily with their caste identity, rather than as citizens of a unified nation, and that it works against meritocracy.

In making claims of castelessness, dominant caste individuals seem to be oblivious to the caste-based discrimination and inequality that still prevails in society. For many lower-caste individuals, reservation policies have provided a pathway to education and employment opportunities that they might not have otherwise had.

Therefore, castelessness is now viewed as a new disguise for caste power and privilege, while at the same time it is also an aspiration for people subject to caste-based discrimination.

Dr. Ambedkar's vision

Dr. Ambedkar acknowledged that caste was deeply entrenched in Indian society and that it would require significant effort to uproot it. Education, according to him, was key to annihilating caste. Education could empower individuals socially, economically and politically. It could help them escape the cycle of poverty and oppression through economic independence. It could also help them to be more politically represented, giving them a voice in the democratic process to advocate for their rights. Economic and political freedom would help them in challenging the existing social order and breaking down barriers that had been erected to maintain caste-based discrimination.

According to him, another important step towards creating a casteless society was inter-caste marriages. He argued that marriage was a means of reproducing caste privileges and maintaining the existing social order. Inter-caste marriage could break down caste barriers, as individuals born through such marriages cannot be associated with a single caste, challenging the traditional notion of caste purity. He believed that inter-caste marriages would help to create a sense of unity and shared identity, which would be necessary to achieve a casteless society.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

April 5 is celebrated as National Maritime Day in India. It was first celebrated in 1964. Here is a quiz on the navigation system in India

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

On April 5, 1919, the first ship journeyed to the U.K., a crucial step in India's shipping history when sea routes were controlled by the British. What was the name of the ship? What is the name of the shipping company that built this ship?

QUESTION 2

According to the ASI, this place, located in today's Gujarat had the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river on the trade route. What is the name of the dock? Which civilisation traded using this dock?

QUESTION 3

According to history, the first attested attempt to organise a navy in India, as described by Megasthenes, is attributed to which empire in India?

QUESTION 4

This was a 56-gun fourth-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy. The ship is known for two events, her voyage to China between 1792 and 1794 and her loss in a fire at sea in 1804. Name the ship.

QUESTION 5

What maritime geographical term is used to classify maritime forces capable of operating globally, essentially across the deep waters of open oceans, with the Indian Navy being classified as one?

QUESTION 6

Which was the first engagement in action of the Indian Navy, following India's independence in 1947?

Visual question:
Identify this former aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, which was decommissioned in 2017.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The American architect responsible for designing the WTC. **Ans: Minoru Yamasaki. Each floor had 110 floors**
2. This tower held the record for the tallest building in the world briefly. **Ans: 1 World Trade Center (North Tower)**
3. This innovation of Fazlur Rahman Khan was used in the construction of the two towers. **Ans: Framed Tube construction**
4. The relevance of 'Windows on the World' and 'Wild Blue'. **Ans: The restaurants on the 106th and 107th floor of the North Tower**
5. The significance of 10048. **Ans: It was the dedicated ZIP code for the WTC**
6. This director made *World Trade Center.* **Ans: Oliver Stone**
7. This Indian sportsperson played on the WTC Observation Deck. **Ans: Viswanathan Anand**
Visual: Name this French high-wire artist. **Ans: Philippe Petit**
Early Birds: Arnasree Chakraborty| M. Suresh Kumar| Varghese Joseph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. B. L. Raina, Chandigarh, wants to know the difference between 'at the end' and 'in the end.'"

"At the end of the meeting, there was some disturbance.

At the end of the street, you will see a temple.

At the end of the course, you will be given a certificate.

The opposite of 'at the end' is 'at the beginning.' 'In the end' means 'finally.' You cannot say 'In the end of the meeting, there was a commotion.' It is used to mean 'finally.'

We had a lot of discussion on who should attend the meeting. In the end, we decided to send John.

I put up with a lot of abuse from my colleagues. In the end, I walked out.

I know you are all anxious to know what happened in the end."

"Mr. C. R. Godbole, Vikroli, Bombay, wants to know the difference between 'clarify' and 'elucidate.'"

"'To clarify' means 'to make clear.' What is unclear is made clear through clarification. You ask for clarification when you have a doubt, when something is obscure or ambiguous or equivocal. 'Elucidate' is from Latin 'elucidate, 'to make bright.' 'Elucidate' is a formal word. When you elucidate something, you throw light on it. You explain clearly everything connected with it. To elucidate a text is to explain clearly its important aspects. You don't 'elucidate' words, you elucidate texts, problems. 'Elucidation' is more than mere clarification. It clarifies and gives additional information. The first 'e' in 'elucidate' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'it.' The 'u' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'dupe,' 'mute,' 'duty'. It is also pronounced like the 'oo' in 'boot' and 'hoot.' The 'c' is pronounced like the 'c' in 'city.' The 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'it.' 'date' rhymes with 'fate' and 'hate.' So it is pronounced 'ilyousidate'/'iloosidate.' The stress is on the second syllable."

"Mrs. Lalitharaghavan, Gangadharapuram, Swamimalai Post, writes: "The boats carrying relief supplies to Jaffna were referred to as 'flotilla.' According to A. S. Hornby's Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English, it means a fleet of small warships e.g. destroyers. Actually the boats carrying relief supplies were escorted by the Indian Red Cross ships and not by any warships.'"

"What you say is true. But the recent editions of several dictionaries including COD define 'flotilla' as 'small fleet, fleet of boats or small ships.' The word is used now in a wider sense. The word 'fleet' itself was once used in the narrow sense of 'number of warships under one commander-in-chief,' 'the navy.' Now it refers not only to a 'group of ships sailing in company' but also 'to buses, lorries, etc, owned by one management.'"

Published in The Hindu on July 14, 1987.

Word of the day

Splurge:
an ostentatious display of effort or extravagance; any act of immoderate indulgence

Synonyms: binge, orgy, fling

Usage: *I splurged on a new laptop.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/splurgepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /splɜːʤ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Cow vigilantism: Accused on the run, posts video

No external injuries on the body of the deceased Idrees Pasha, police claim

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pressure is mounting on the police to nab Puneeth Kerehalli, now accused of murder in an act of cow vigilantism in Kanakapura on Saturday, even as he is still at large and posted a video on his social media handles on Tuesday taking on two former Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and H.D. Kumaraswamy, who had criticised the government over the incident.

In a 14-minute-long video, Puneeth denied that he or his associates killed Idrees Pasha and said the fact that he was live on Facebook and at the police station, helping them transport the illegally herded cattle to a religious mutt, was proof that he was not involved. Coming down heavily on Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Kumaraswamy at length, he accused them of being in collusion with "cow killers".

Puneeth Kerehalli

'Is he sheltered?'

The video has drawn the ire of opposition Congress and JD(S) alike. Karnataka Congress and JD(S) posed questions on Twitter to Home Minister Araga Janendra, asking him if the accused was being "sheltered", given that a murder accused was doing videos threatening two Opposition leaders.

"Because BJP Karnataka has been supporting criminals, the State has become jungle raj today," JD(S) tweeted.

"How does a murder accused have the audacity to threaten opposition leaders? Is the Home Minister protecting him?" Congress tweeted.

B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, IGP, Central Range, said they had formed four special teams and all efforts were on to nab the accused and his associates. "We have leads, and we will soon apprehend them," he said. In the video message he posted, Puneeth said he had been touring several temples and that he would present himself before the police for investigation.

Meanwhile, contradicting the deceased Idrees Pasha's family member's claims that they had seen several "burn-like wounds" on the arms and head of the deceased, senior police officials who did not wish to be named said that there were no wounds on the body.

"Doctors who conducted autopsy have said there are no ante-mortem wounds and some of the wounds they have recorded as postmortem wounds may have been caused because the body was found in a prostrating position in shrubs," a senior official said.

Mr. Gowda said the autopsy report was awaited, and he would not comment on the cause of the death till the report was submitted to them. "We got a team of three senior doctors to conduct the autopsy at Kanakapura Government Hospital. The doctors have sent the viscera sample to the Forensic Science Laboratory. After a report is submitted, we will know what caused Mr. Pasha's death," he said.

Where is Irfan?

Three individuals – Irfan, who owns the vehicle that was transporting cattle, and two of his employees, Idrees Pasha and Syed Zaheer – left Maddur after they bought cattle from a fair on Friday evening. They were intercepted by Puneeth and his associates at Sathanur past midnight, prompting all three of them to flee from the spot. Syed Zaheer was later caught and handed over to Sathanur police by Puneeth, and hours later, Idrees Pasha was found dead.

However, the whereabouts of the vehicle owner Irfan, who could possibly be an eyewitness to the alleged attack, still remain a mystery. Police said he was missing but added that their focus now was to catch the accused.

State's inaction in Sathanur attack case condemned

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Communalism is on the rise ever since Basavaraj Bommai took charge as CM, says Bahutva Karnataka

Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of progressive organisations fighting to preserve the plural culture of Karnataka, has condemned the system that encourages acts of cow vigilantism, such as the one that occurred at Sathanur village near Kanakapura on Saturday which resulted in the death of Idrees Pasha.

Arguing that communalism was on the rise ever since Basavaraj Bommai took charge as Chief Minister, it said Puneeth Kerehalli, the accused in the case, was a petty criminal who had now turned vigilante attacker as the police stood by watching.

'Emboldened'

"Not only did the police turn a blind eye to his ever-growing crimes, but he, in fact, was encouraged and supported by those in power, thus emboldening him ... Police have also booked a case against Idrees Pasha and two others, even though they had all valid papers," the statement said.

The coalition has also come down heavily on The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2021, and demanded that it be withdrawn immediately.

"The law by design is intended to facilitate exactly these kinds of acts of brutality and violence. The clause offering impunity to those acting out of "goodwill" can elevate a murderer and criminal such as Puneeth Kerehalli to a "gaurakshak" who acted in good faith. The Act, therefore, violates essential principles of the Rule of Law where the victim becomes the accused, and the criminal becomes the protector," the statement said.

Bahutva Karnataka has also demanded that the State government immediately ensure strict compliance with the order of the Supreme Court in Tehseen Poonawalla vs Union of India case.

The order stipulates a list of measures to prevent hate crimes.

INBRIEF

Graduation Day at St. John's Medical College held

A total of 244 health professionals were awarded their degrees including 144 MBBS students, 82 postgraduates, 17 super speciality postgraduates and a PhD scholar at the 56th Annual Convocation and College Day of St. John's Medical College held on Tuesday.

According to a release from the College, Chief guest, Dr. Ramachandra Guha, addressing the graduates and awardees pointed out the need to have inspiring role models who could mould the way in which one looks at life. Pointing out that the newly graduating doctors should not just perform the job that they were trained for or committed to do, but explore and embrace some of their talents and interests in arts, literature and music.

Actor Sudeep gets two blackmail letters; police launch probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Puttenahalli police are on the lookout for the person who sent two letters to popular Kannada actor Sudeep threatening to make his private videos public.

The letters, addressed to Sudeep using abusive words, were received by the caretaker of the family. Manjunath, representing Sudeep's family, said this caused mental harassment and was a conspiracy to tarnish the image of the actor.

The Puttenahalli police have registered a case under Section 506 (criminal intimidation) and Section 504 (intentional insult) and stepped up the probe to track down the accused. Senior police officers are contemplating transferring the case to CCB for a detailed probe.

Food delivery executive arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The anti-narcotics squad of the Central Crime Branch recently arrested a 26-year-old food delivery executive and recovered LSD strips worth ₹1 lakh from him.

The accused, Tison Joseph P.U., a resident of Kattigenahalli and a native of Virajpet, Kodagu, has been working as a food delivery executive for six months and living in a rented house. But according to the police, Tison would peddle drugs under the garb of food delivery.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police raided the house on Saturday and recovered 14 strips of LSD worth ₹1 lakh from him.

Cubbon Park guards to check 'improper behaviour' by couples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apart from ensuring that general rules like vacating the park on time and the ban on littering are followed, security guards at Cubbon Park are now also tasked with keeping an eye on "inappropriate behaviour" displayed by couples. Under the new measure taken up by the Horticulture Department, the guards are provided with megaphones to inform people to maintain decorum inside the park.

A guard at Cubbon Park using a megaphone to inform people to keep the park clean and maintain distance while sitting under the trees or on benches. K. MURALI KUMAR

"We received several complaints from families, especially those who come with children, frequent walkers and senior citizens, that they were feeling uncomfortable walking in the park as couples were often found in indecent situations at some corners of the park. Hence, I instructed the Deputy Director of Cubbon Park to take some action," said Rajender Kumar Kataria, Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department.

He further said another reason why people were being asked to keep away from such places was that there had been sightings of snakes in some remote corners of the park. "We do not want any accidents to happen," Mr. Kataria said.

It has been almost five days since the security guards were given the megaphones. "One megaphone has been given for each garden inside the park. We do not disturb anyone, but if we see someone displaying inappropriate behaviour, we ask them not to do such things and sit decently," said a security guard at the park.

Some young couples at the park seemed to agree with the department's decision, while a few did not. "There are boards inside the park that we should behave appropriately. We think we should also show some responsibility and stick to our limits," said a young couple in the park on Tuesday.

"Our intention is not to disturb or trouble anyone in the park. The guards there have even been instructed not to misuse the megaphones or trouble anyone unnecessarily," said another senior official of the department.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 05	
RISE 06:14	SET 18:31
RISE 17:59	SET 05:38
THURSDAY, APR. 06	
RISE 06:13	SET 18:31
RISE 18:47	SET 06:14
FRIDAY, APR. 07	
RISE 06:12	SET 18:31
RISE 19:38	SET 06:51

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	33	20
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of rain or thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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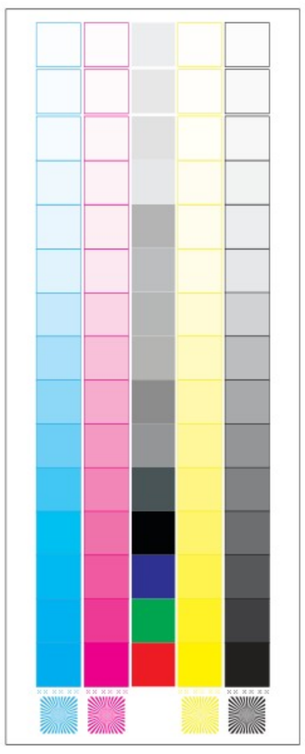

THE HINDU
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New Delhi – 110 030

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2	Electrician (Non-Excv.) /Technician	(DR) Cat-IV	1087.17 per day	3	29	94	126
3	Deputy Surveyor	T & S Gr. C	31852.56	-	-	20	20
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In rural Karnataka, candidates embrace social media for campaigning

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

As election campaigning gains pace, social media campaigning of political leaders is in full swing. While social media was used widely during previous elections too, with Internet connectivity spreading, this time even politicians in rural areas and senior (older) leaders are utilising social media extensively.

Most leaders in rural areas have set up their own social media teams for these elections.

Subhash Rathod, Congress leader from Chincholi, says, "In rural areas, if not anything, voters use WhatsApp for sure. Compared to the last election, this time, the number of people who have smartphones and connectivity has increased. WhatsApp is our main medium, while we also send out Facebook updates regularly."

"On WhatsApp, we have groups where our social media teams are constantly sending messages about the work I do and the major announcements of our party on both the State and Central front."

Reaching young voters

A source in the JD(S) said senior leaders see social media as a way to connect with young voters. "You can see that regular updates go out from our most senior leader H.D. Deve Gowda's account too."

The social media campaigners of various political parties also said the relevance of social media had increased this time around, with many millennials and Gen Z joining the ranks of first-time voters.

Vikas Puttur, social media convener of BJP, says, "In 2018, we were the opposition party, and we had a different social media approach to reach out to our

Subhash Rathod, Congress leader from Chincholi, says, 'WhatsApp is our main medium...we also send out Facebook updates regularly.'

voters. This time, as we are in power, we are concentrating on projecting the developmental schemes of both the State and Centre operationalised during our tenure. We are not keen on responding to what opposition parties post. We are also posting reels and stories of our projects and schemes to reach the younger audience."

Data crunching by Congress

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), on the other hand, is trying to post out-of-the-box, relatable, curiosity-arousing content.

Priyank Kharge, who heads the KPCC's communication and social media wing, says, "In the last election, approximately 4% of votes were influenced by social media. According to available data, around 4.5 crore voters are active on one of the social media sites."

The idea this time is to capture the minds of younger voters and to cater to every vertical in society. "Our *kivi mele hoova* (flower on ear, as in hoodwink) or 'PayCM' campaigns gained good traction. We also used sarcastic hashtags like #BJPpaapadapurana for PSI scam and #VyaparaSoudha for jobs being sold in Vidhana Soudha. Once these things capture their attention, we get across serious messaging."

Mr. Kharge added that announcement of policies is also influenced by social media to an extent. "Whenever we or any neutral YouTube channels post about price rise or inflation, we noticed that more women were responding to such posts. Hence, we came up with the idea of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme."

JD(S) aims for unique presence

A source in the social media wing of JD(S) said every tweet or post that goes out of H.D. Kumaraswamy's account is monitored by him. While the campaign accounts run by party workers and fans use content related to the ruling party's failures, official accounts of the party and its leaders focus on ethical and factual content.

"We strongly believe that rather than taunting and criticising others, we should let people know what we have done in the past, and what our vision is for the future. There is no need for gimmicks, and we want to abide by the principles and reputation that H.D. Deve Gowda has established for the party. Between BJP and KPCC lashing out at each other, we want to establish a strong, unique presence," they said.

INBRIEF

Cong. hasn't promised ticket to all who deposited money: DKS

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the party has not promised ticket to all those who had deposited ₹2 lakh while applying for tickets for the Assembly elections in the State.

In reply to a question, Mr. Shivakumar said, "The party had sought donation of ₹2 lakh for construction of the party building. The application fee was ₹5,000." The party had mobilised nearly ₹23 crore from 1,350 ticket aspirants who had applied for tickets.

"There should be healthy competition to face the ruling BJP," Mr. Shivakumar said, on protests by multiple ticket aspirants.

Mr. Shivakumar said that K.M. Shivalinge Gowda, who had quit the JD(S), will join the party on April 9.

Congress accused of releasing fake list of BJP candidates

The ruling BJP has filed a complaint with Malleswaram police accusing the Opposition Congress of releasing a fake list of its (BJP) candidates by forging the seal of National General Secretary Arun Singh.

BJP State General Secretary and former MLC Ashwathnarayan said the episode of "fabrication of documents" was an example of moral bankruptcy of the Congress. He alleged that the Congress had released a list of 100 candidates in the name of BJP to mislead people ahead of elections to the State Assembly. The BJP leader said the copies of the police complaint had been forwarded to the Election Commission of India and Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer.

Election Commission makes seizures of over ₹60 crore

Since March 29, when the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force in Karnataka, the Election Commission (EC) made seizures totalling ₹60.99 crore, including cash, liquor, drugs, and metals.

The EC seized cash and articles worth nearly ₹58 crore even before the elections were announced (from March 9 to 27).

After MCC came into force, the amount of cash seized was ₹17.36 crore, while liquor worth ₹22.35 crore, narcotics worth ₹42.66 lakh, precious metals worth ₹9.15 crore, and other items (freebies) worth ₹11.69 crore were seized, said a release from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka.

In the last 24 hours, flying squads and police authorities seized 8.569 kg of gold worth ₹1.47 crore in C.V. Raman Nagar constituency in Bengaluru. Likewise, the Income Tax Department has seized cash totaling ₹3.36 crore in Padmanabhanagar constituency in Bengaluru, stated the release.

BJP parliamentary board set to finalise first list of candidates on April 8

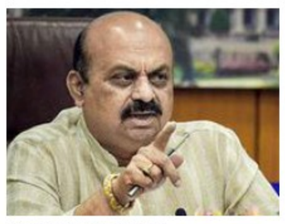
Basavaraj Bommai is expected to reach Delhi a day ahead to be available for consultations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The focus is shifting to Delhi in the ruling BJP as the party's Parliamentary Board that is meeting in New Delhi on April 8 is expected to clear the first list of candidates for the Karnataka Assembly elections.

The lobbying for tickets has intensified as Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai too is expected to visit Delhi on April 7 to be available for consultations with the party high command.

Parliamentary Board member B.S. Yediyurappa and National Organising General Secretary B.L. Santhosh would be present at the meeting in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Party National President J.P. Nadda would


Basavaraj Bommai

take part. Mr. Bommai, BJP National General Secretary and state in-charge Arun Singh and State poll in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan too would be there.

Core panel meeting

The BJP State Core Committee is said to be in the final stage of shortlisting the probable candidates as it has to forward the names to the Central Election Committee by Wednesday. The core committee held its meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday to discuss this.

Speculation is rife that the first list of candidates may have anywhere from 120 to 150 names though the State leaders say that the size of the list would depend on consensus. While district units of the party have taken up a polling exercise to decide on candidates, the final call would be taken by the party Central unit based on various other parameters including the outcome of multiple surveys in the State to analyse the winning potential of ticket aspirants, sources said.

Though the speculation of the BJP high command keeping many sitting MLAs out of poll contest had gripped the party earlier, sources in the party said most of the sitting MLAs were bound to get party tickets barring a few.

To quell rebellion

The party high command is said to have adopted a cautious approach with respect to candidates' selection in the wake of ticket aspirants in a host of constituencies represented by its sitting MLAs demanding that the incumbents should not be given tickets. The Central leadership is said to be keen on quelling competition to prevent it from snowballing into a rebellion. Senior leaders from different regions are being given the responsibility of handling rebellion if any. Both the Congress and JD(S) have announced their first list of candidates. While filing of nominations is set to commence on April 13, the last day for the process is April 20.

JD(S) second list, including Hassan, likely in two days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.D. Kumaraswamy

The Janata Dal (Secular) is expected to release its second list of candidates, including for the contentious Hassan Assembly constituency, in the next two days, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said on Tuesday.

"Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda is returning from Delhi on Wednesday evening. The list will be released afterwards," the former Chief Minister told reporters here. "The second list will include the name of the candidate for Hassan constituency," he added.

Party sources, however, said that the second list to be released may not comprise all the 131 remaining seats since some legislators, former legislators and leaders, who are hopeful of tickets in BJP and Congress are likely to hop on to JD(S) if they are denied opportunities. "The party is likely to keep such seats vacant since the leaders of other parties are in touch with the JD(S) leadership."

While the party has released a list of 93 candidates in November, the announcement of the second list of candidates has been delayed due to lack of consensus of the candidate for the Hassan Assembly constituency. The former Prime Minister's family is divided over the candidature with Bhavani Revanna, wife of H.D. Revanna remaining adamant on the party ticket. On the other hand, Mr. Kumaraswamy has been favouring H.P. Swaroop, son of former legislator H.S. Prakash. An attempt to have a neutral third candidate has also failed.

Mr. Kumaraswamy claimed that Hassan had received publicity during the preparation of second list and expects to increase its vote share by 2% to 3%. He also refuted claims that the party was delaying the second list anticipating the Congress's second list.

Congress panel meets to select candidates for 100 constituencies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Election Committee (CEC) of the Congress on Tuesday held its meeting in New Delhi to pick candidates for 100 constituencies in the upcoming Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections. The party had already announced the first list of candidates for 124 constituencies. The second list is likely to be out on April 6, sources said.

Congress president M. Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal and others during the central election committee meeting for the Karnataka Assembly elections, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

The CEC meeting chaired by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi, and attended by senior leaders from Karnataka held deliberations on candidates recommended by the party's screening committee chairman Mohan Prakash. The Congress is expected to release its second list of candidates before its leader Rahul Gandhi visits Kolar on April 9.

Among those present at the meeting were AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition in the Council B.K. Hariprasad, and former KPCC president G. Parameshwara.

Poll code

Indira Gandhi's portrait covered at an Indira Canteen as the Model Code of Conduct is enforced, at Ganganagar in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Both DKS and I are aspirants for CM's post: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

D.K. Shivakumar

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he is a contender for the Chief Minister's post, just like KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar is, and the newly-elected MLAs will elect the leader of the Legislature of the party after the election and the high command take the final decision.

"There is nothing wrong in it in a democracy... Anyone may be an aspirant for the highest post, M.B. Patil is the aspirant, D.K. Shivakumar and G. Parameshwara are also aspirants. The newly-elected MLAs have to elect the leader of the Legislature of the party after the election. Ultimately the high command has to take a decision," Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters in the national capital.

Both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar are seen as chief ministerial faces in the Congress, with each claiming strong support in different parts of the State.

Anti-incumbency

After attending the Congress Central Election Committee meeting for selection of candidates in 100 constituencies in Delhi on Tuesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "'There is a strong anti-incumbency against the corrupt BJP government. They (BJP leaders) have done nothing for farmers, women, labourers. They are looting the State. The fiscal situation is pathetic."

He also played down talk of infighting in the Congress' State unit and said that his statements were being "misinterpreted" by a private television channel's website. In a tweet he asked the channel to take down an article which he claimed had twisted his words.

CM responds

Responding to this, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the Congress would not come to power and both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar were not not in the reckoning. He said, "The Congress party will not come to power and they are fighting for the seats which they cannot win.... The utterances of Mr. Siddaramaiah indicate what's happening inside the Congress party. Mr. Shivakumar, wherever he goes, seeks blessings to become the CM, and on the other hand, Siddaramaiah has been claiming himself as the CM." JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy also reacted to the development and said, "Both Congress and BJP will not cross 70 seats."

'Shah studying SC verdicts and reports of commissions on internal reservation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanaswamy on Tuesday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah was studying the verdicts of Supreme Court and reports of various commissions related to internal reservations.

A suitable decision would be announced by the Centre on recommendations of different states on internal reservation after completion of the study, the Minister told a press conference in Bengaluru.

The Minister pointed out that Karnataka government had forwarded its decision related to internal reservation to the Centre. Several other states including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu too had made recommendations to the Centre regarding internal reservation.

Seeking to downplay the opposition to the internal reservation exercise by the Banjara community, he said any confusion in this regard would be removed by creating awareness among these communities.

Felicitation for Bommai

Meanwhile, under the banner of Federation of SC Associations, a felicitation is being planned for Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and his ministerial colleagues in Hubballi on April 6 on providing internal reservation.

The mega convention of Scheduled Castes comprising 101 castes is not being projected as a programme of BJP and instead as a "thanksgiving" gesture by members of the SC community.

Belur rathotsava: Moulvi refrains from reciting Koran

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

The moulvi from Dodda Meduru village offering prayers during the Chennakeshava Rathotsava in Belur on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chennakeshava Rathotsava (annual chariot festival) was held in Belur on Tuesday without the recitation of the Koran. The moulvi (Muslim priest) from Dodda Meduru village in Belur taluk offered his prayers and accepted the felicitation from the temple administration.

The moulvi, Sajjad Basha Khadri Saheb, who had recited excerpts from the Koran at the beginning of the rathotsava in the past, did not do so this time.

Official statement

In a written communication to the State government, Khadri Saheb said, "I offered my prayers by reciting a shloka in our style, standing on the steps in front of the temple, and accepted the felicitation by the temple committee. I wish to convey that I have not recited the excerpts of the Koran."

No clarity

It is not clear why the moulvi decided not to read out excerpts from the Koran, which has been the practice for decades.

A few Hindutva activists had opposed recitation of the Koran during the annual chariot festival. Last week, they staged a protest urging the district administration to stop the practice. Following the protest, the Department of Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments sent a team of *agama* (tradition or ritual) experts.

Based on their opinion, the department directed the temple authorities to conduct the rituals as per the temple manual and the tradition.

Hassan Deputy Commissioner M.S. Archana had told mediapersons that the moulvi would recite the excerpts standing on a pedestal near the temple.

Narayana Swamy, chairman of the temple management committee, told mediapersons that the moulvi did not read out excerpts from the Koran this time.

Hassan district administration had deployed police personnel in Belur to avoid any untoward incident during the celebrations.

VHP and Bajrang Dal activists had threatened to stage a protest if the moulvi was allowed to recite excerpts from the Koran in front of the chariot.

14 persons found guilty in Attappady lynching case

Kerala court to pronounce sentences today; the judgment comes more than five years after Madhu, a 30-year-old tribal was captured, tied and beaten to death by a mob alleging theft

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

Fight for justice: Madhu's mother Malli and sister Sarasu at the Special Court in Palakkad on Tuesday. K.K. MUSTAFAH

As many as 14 of the 16 accused in the sensational Madhu lynching case were found guilty by the Special Court for SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act at Mannarkkad in Kerala on Tuesday.

When 13 of them were found guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Indian Penal Code Section 304 (ii), one was found guilty of assault under IPC 352. Two accused were acquitted. The court will announce the sentences on Wednesday.

On Tuesday morning, judge K.M. Ratheesh Kumar pronounced the verdict of a case that was watched by entire Kerala with great anticipation. The police had enhanced security on the court premises as Madhu's family had expressed concerns about a possible assault.

The judgment came more than five years after Madhu, a 30-year-old tribal youth from Chindakki in Attappady, died after he was attacked by a gang alleging theft.

Madhu was captured from the forest, tied, beaten up and was brought to Mukkali, Attappady, on February 22, 2018. Although he was handed over to the police, Madhu died on the way to hospital.

Madhu's mother Malli, and sister Sarasu said that their fight for justice did not go waste.

The court pronounced the verdict in the case on Tuesday after facing many hurdles and witnessing dramatic scenes in the last one year.

Although Madhu died on February 22, 2018, it took more than five years and four special public prosecutors for the case to reach its conclusion.

Multiple agencies at work to collect evidence in Kerala train arson case

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE/KANNUR

The investigation into the arson attack inside a coach of the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express near Kozhikode on Sunday is progressing fast with multiple agencies trying to piece together crucial evidence related to the case.

While the Kerala Police remained tight-lipped about the prime suspect, a native of Noida aged around 30, a team of officials went to the Uttar Pradesh town on Tuesday to know his whereabouts.

Personnel from the NIA and the State Anti-Terrorist Squad inspected the train.

The suspect carrying two bottles had poured an inflammable liquid over his fellow passengers in the D-1 coach of the train and ignited it. Three persons died as they jumped off the moving train to escape from the fire and nine others suffered burns.

Meanwhile, the incident has strengthened apprehensions of residents of Elathur over the proximity of the railway track to the fuel depot of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

Elathur Janakeeya Samrakshana Koottayma that has been demanding the relocation of the depot, citing safety concerns, had pointed to the potential of the depot being the target of a terror attack. "The distance between the track and the compound wall of the depot is just around 5 metres. It is possible for someone to throw a bomb or a firecracker into the compound from a moving train," Chandrasekharan Mattuvayal, chairman of the collective, told *The Hindu*.

However, Prasanth K. Kamble, senior regional manager, HPCL, brushed aside residents' concerns.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Gujarat, west Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.8	33.8	23.0	Kozhikode	0.3	29.0	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.7	22.3	Kurnool	—	40.2	27.4
Aizawl	3	31.1	16.2	Lucknow	—	31.6	20.2
Allahabad	—	38.8	20.4	Madurai	—	37.2	25.8
Bengaluru	1	31.2	22.0	Mangaluru	—	32.6	22.4
Bhopal	—	36.0	19.6	Mumbai	—	32.1	22.4
Bhubaneswar	—	35.6	26.0	Mysuru	1	34.0	20.5
Chandigarh	1	29.0	16.3	New Delhi	16.3	31.3	16.3
Chennai	—	35.8	27.4	Patna	—	38.2	20.0
Coimbatore	—	34.4	24.4	Port Blair	—	32.8	24.7
Dehradun	—	27.8	15.3	Puducherry	—	35.4	25.6
Gangtok	50	14.5	10.5	Pune	—	37.8	20.9
Goa	—	32.3	20.0	Raipur	—	37.1	25.7
Guwahati	—	27.4	18.5	Ranchi	—	33.6	18.4
Hubballi	—	37.0	20.0	Shillong	—	23.8	12.5
Hyderabad	—	37.6	25.0	Shimla	10	16.3	7.8
Imphal	4	24.6	14.1	Srinagar	5	15.6	6.9
Jaipur	6	31.4	17.3	Thiruvananthapuram	2	34.1	25.2
Kochi	2	32.0	25.6	Tiruchi	—	36.8	26.4
Kohima	6	18.4	11.2	Vijayawada	—	35.6	27.2
Kolkata	—	35.6	25.8	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	26.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.17	.24	119	124	
Bengaluru	.7	.15	.35	49	70	
Chennai	.13	.28	.57	22	34	
Delhi	.9	.46	.38	136	131	
Hyderabad	.6	.31	.25	72	106	
Kolkata	.17	.24	.22	41	70	
Lucknow	.21	.29	.35	177	134	
Mumbai	.11	128	.91	197	153	
Pune	117	175	114	122	95	
Visakhapatnam	.16	.41	.37	43	77	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 500 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Indigo flight makes emergency landing in Hyderabad

An Indigo flight bound from Bengaluru to Varanasi was diverted to Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Tuesday after the aircraft developed a technical snag while on its way to the destination. An Airbus A320 aircraft operated by Indigo Airlines with flight number 6E 897, took off from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport at 5.24 a.m. and was scheduled to land in Varanasi at 7.50 a.m. Midway, the aircraft developed technical issues after which it was diverted to Hyderabad, the authorities stated.

Don't auction coal blocks in delta, Stalin urges Modi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to exclude the Cauvery delta from the coal block auction.

The Ministry of Coal has put up 101 blocks across the country for auction, and three of them are in Tamil Nadu, he pointed out. The Vadaseri and East of Sethiathope lignite blocks fall in the zone protected under the Tamil Nadu Protected Agriculture Zone Development Act, 2020. Michaelpatti falls in a major paddy growing area adjoining a very fertile part of the Cauvery delta.

Elderly man's body found 'mauled' by stray dogs in A.P.

Stray dogs reportedly mauled the body of a 60-year-old man at Mudinenivaddipalle of Annamayya district in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. However, it was not clear if the man died after being attacked by the stray canines or he died of excessive drinking and the dogs later shred his body. The incident has created a flutter. While some residents claimed that the man, identified as Reddaiah, was attacked by the dogs while returning home from the fields, another version was that being addicted to alcohol, the man could have fallen unconscious, and was later attacked by the canines.

Back with a bang

Tourist attraction: The floating bridge, which has been reintroduced now on the Beypore beach in Kerala's Kozhikode, is a big hit among tourists. Though it was opened a year ago, it had to wind up operations due to bad weather. K RAGESH

Kalakshetra board forms panel to probe allegations

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The board of the Kalakshetra Foundation has announced that a three-member independent inquiry committee has been constituted to look into the allegations that have surfaced on campus, according to a press release.

Last week, the students of Kalakshetra held protests demanding the dismissal of four staff members, who have been accused of sexual abuse and inappropriate behaviour.

Justice (Retd.) K. Kannan, Former DGP Letika Saran and Dr. Shobha Varthaman will be a part of the committee.

The decision was taken at a board meeting on Monday, when its members reviewed the developments over the past few days and expressed concerns over the same.

The board also said that Assistant Professor Hari Padman had been placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending an inquiry, and that the services of repertory artists Sanjith Lal, Sai Krishnan and Sreenath had been dispensed with.

Padman was arrested on Monday after a criminal case was filed against him based on a sexual harassment complaint from an alumna of Kalakshetra.

The Internal Complaints Committee of the institution had been reconstituted, the board announced.

ISRO organises workshop for Chandrayaan-3 mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which is planning to launch the Chandrayaan-3 between June and July this year, organised a two-day workshop on science and data analysis aspects of the lunar mission.

The workshop which was held on March 28 and 29 at the Indian Space Science Data Centre, Byalalu, near Bengaluru comprised lectures on the Indian lunar exploration programme, setting the context for the Chandrayaan-3 mission, data archival and dissemination aspects and the scientific experiments on Chandrayaan-3.

"Extensive hands-on training on the processing and analysing the laboratory data of the Chandrayaan-3 payloads, and a dedicated interaction session between the participants from the academia and institutes with the scientists from ISRO and Department of Space (DOS) were the major focus of the workshop," ISRO said. It added that the workshop was attended by 50 participants from outside the DOS, which included 24 faculty members and senior students from Universities and Institutes who would use the lunar data.

HC refuses to quash disproportionate assets case against Renukacharya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash the criminal case of allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to known sources of income against BJP MLA for Honnalli M.P. Renukacharya.

The court said the first information report (FIR) registered against Mr. Renukacharya by the Lokayukta police in 2015 was legally permissible and it does not amount to the registration of a second FIR on the same allegations.

Justice K. Natarajan passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by Mr. Renukacharya questioning the legality of the registration of the FIR.

M.P. Renukacharya

The FIR registered earlier was quashed by the High Court as the complainant had directly lodged a private complaint against Mr. Renukacharya before the jurisdictional court in Davangere instead of first lodging a complaint with the jurisdictional Lokayukta police as per the guidelines laid down by the apex court for registering complaints on commission of criminal offences, the court pointed out. The court also noted that the HC in 2015 had given liberty to the complainant to lodge the complaint afresh by following the guidelines issued by the apex court while quashing the earlier FIR, which was registered by the Lokayukta police as per the direction given by the jurisdictional court based on the private complaint.

Meanwhile, the Lokayukta police have told the court that the investigation into the complaint was complete and they were awaiting sanction from the competent authority to submit the chargesheet against the MLA.

One G.K. Mattad from Honnali had lodged a complaint stating that Mr. Renukacharya had declared his assets as ₹24.07 lakh while filing nomination papers in the 2004 Assembly elections, and his assets grew to ₹73.97 lakh as per the declaration made during the 2008 elections. Pointing out that his declared assets during the 2013 elections was ₹4.95 crore, the complainant had alleged that Mr. Renukacharya had amassed huge assets by abusing his positions both as an MLA and a Minister.

Invented names

China's 'renaming' of areas in Arunachal Pradesh is a new low in ties with India

India has summarily rejected China's attempt to lay claim over areas of Arunachal Pradesh after it issued new official names for them. In a fresh attempt on Sunday, the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs said it would "standardise" 11 place names in what China calls "South Tibet or Zangnan", an area consistently controlled by India. The names, in Mandarin, Tibetan and Pinyin (English transliteration), with latitude and longitude markings that pertain to points in Arunachal, including one close to capital Itanagar, leave little doubt that China's list, the third such since 2017, is a deliberate affront to India's territorial sovereignty. The Ministry of External Affairs statement, that "invented names" will not alter the reality that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India, mirrors what India had said in 2021 when China "renamed" 15 places; in 2017, there were six names. It would be a mistake, given the timing, to assume that the Chinese decision is a repetition of its previous attempts. The move in 2017 was seen as retaliation after the Dalai Lama's visit to Tawang. In 2021, the move followed China's new "Land and State Border Law", that virtually authorised the government to reclaim territories claimed by China, and was seen as a way to reassert its claim over the State as a whole.

There could be many factors behind the latest move: China's reaction after the Indian Army rebuffed a PLA attempt to take over a post at Yangtse in the Tawang sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in December 2022, an angry response to New Delhi's decision to hold a G-20 engagement group meeting on Innovation technology in Itanagar which the Chinese embassy had boycotted, or an indication of more serious designs ahead. Above all, it reflects the nadir in ties and the lack of meaningful dialogue for three years since the amassing of Chinese troops at the LAC in 2020 and transgressions that have led to scuffles, including the deadly encounter at Galwan. While many rounds of talks have ensued, and there has been disengagement at some standoff points, political relations have not been resumed, although there have been some meetings between Foreign and Defence Ministers, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke briefly with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit in Indonesia last year. It is necessary, in light of China's latest act of belligerence, that the government shows more clarity on the nature of its conversations thus far. Until the government probes the reasons behind China's moves and the motivation for its persistent aggressions, it will be hard to prepare for a future course of action, even as it counters China's false narrative and a renaming of areas that are firmly within India's boundaries.

Summer resolution

Heatwave forecasts must be taken as seriously as monsoon warnings

It is not exactly surprising when the India Meteorological Department (IMD) says that the summer months will be searingly hot. Last week, it proclaimed that most parts of the country are expected to experience above normal maximum temperatures during the "hot weather season"(March-May), barring parts of peninsular and northwest India, which would see normal or even below normal 'maximum' temperatures. This does not mean that northwest India, which sees temperatures well over 45°C, will be comfortable. 'Above normal heatwave days, characterised by temperatures 4°-5°C above what is usual for that time in a region, are likely to occur over most parts of central, eastern and northwest India during the hot weather season,' its forecast notes. A seasonal outlook issued by the IMD in March, on probable summer temperatures, too was on similar lines. However, what has changed in the last month is a greater certainty of an El Niño, or a warming of sea surface temperatures in the Equatorial Central Pacific, that is strongly associated with reduced rains over northwest India. Many El Niño years also see reduced monsoon rainfall during June to September and are often associated with drought-like conditions. The IMD's official outlook says that 'neutral' (neither El Niño, or its converse, a cooling La Niña) conditions are persisting in the Pacific. The World Meteorological Organization's outlook says that the chances of El Niño developing gradually increase from 15% in April-June, to 35% in May-July, and rise to around 55% during June-August. Later this month, the IMD is expected to announce its first forecast for the monsoon and this will hinge on the El Niño-La Niña development.

The purpose of forecasts is to give lead time to States to prepare. The National Disaster Management Authority has been issuing guidelines to States on preparing Heat Action Plans since 2016. Many States have prepared documents that detail measures and methods to deal with heat-related contingencies, that, as reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warn, are only poised to get worse. But, many of these recommendations are only on paper. An analysis by researchers at the Centre for Policy Research of such heat action plans found that most of them are not made to capture local context. For instance, only dangers from unusually high temperatures are evaluated and almost none from humidity and warm nights. Several plans are under-funded and lack legal backing. Heat wave forecasts should be taken as seriously as monsoon forecasts, and the Centre as well as State governments must play a more coordinated role in implementing these plans.

A new economics for a new world

Arun Maira

is the author of 'Transforming Systems: Why the World Needs a New Ethical Toolkit'

The Indian government is grappling with three economic challenges at the same time. One is management of inflation, interest rates, and exchange rates, for which the Reserve Bank of India is expected to find a solution. The second is negotiating bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that protect the interests of India's farmers and workers, for which coordination is required amongst the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture. The third problem that is affecting all citizens is secure employment with adequate incomes, which involves all Ministries and all State governments. The third one is linked with the other two: it has become a principal cause of social tensions and political conflicts in the country.

Economists do not have a systemic solution for this "poly-crisis". Consensus among them has broken down even about solutions to its separate parts. They are divided on whether central bankers should operate independently of governments; whether inflation should take precedence over employment; whether imports should be made less costly for consumers or protection of workers' incomes should take precedence to increase their purchasing power; and who is hurt by the depreciation of the rupee.

Lessons from China

Economists agree that more investments will boost growth. Therefore, there are lessons in China's history. China and India opened their economies to global trade around the same time, some 35 years ago. Both countries had similar levels of per capita incomes then, and similar levels of industrial technologies. Since then, China attracted foreign investment that was many times more than in India, and the incomes of its citizens increased five times faster. Moreover, China became an industry and technology powerhouse, which the United States is being threatened by. The West wants to encircle and contain China. Since wages in China have become much higher, India seems well-placed to attract global investors. To attract investors, India must compete with other countries. Vietnam is often cited as a country that is proving to be more attractive than India to western and Japanese investors. Therefore, after China, economists are turning towards Vietnam also to understand why.

With a movement to change the paradigm of economics' science beginning in the West, India's economists must not just follow these developments but also lead them too

Western neo-liberal economists have attributed China's remarkable economic growth to its adoption of free trade policies, and they seem to see only this as a cause for Vietnam's recent spurt. However, when looking into Vietnam, they rediscover what was learned from China. When both countries opened to foreign investors – China before Vietnam – they had already attained high levels of human development, with universal education and good public health systems. Whereas even 10 years ago in India, trade-and-growth economists like Jagdish Bhagwati were dismissive of economists like Amartya Sen who advocated the human development theory of growth. Jagdish Bhagwati said the size of the economic pie must be increased before it can be redistributed. They had the order wrong. Basic human development must precede growth because it is the means for growth. Moreover, incomes must be increased simultaneously to enable more consumption and attract more investments.

The problem with the current paradigm

The clock cannot be turned back. India's policymakers will have to find a way to strengthen the roots of the economic tree while harvesting its fruits at the same time. The current paradigm of economics cannot provide solutions. It is too linear, too mathematical, too mechanical. Economists have also separated themselves from other disciplines into their own self-referential silo. They should break out of it and examine the emerging science of complex self-adaptive systems. It provides a way for economists and policymakers to comprehend complex socio-economic systems in which many forces of different sorts interact with each other – some of which are not easy to quantify.

There are some fundamental flaws in the current paradigm of economics. Economists often cite Tinbergen's theory, which states that the number of policy instruments must equal the number of policy goals. This justifies the necessity of independent monetary institutions for managing inflation, separate trade and industry specialists, and separate policies for environment management and agriculture. This is a mechanical and linear view of how a complex system works. In complex organic systems – which all natural and socio-economic systems are – root causes contribute to many outcomes. Moreover, outcomes circle back to feed the roots too. Therefore, the behaviour of the system cannot be explained by linear causes and effects. The causes interact with each other, and effects also become causes.

All complex adaptive systems (which all biological, natural, and socio-economic systems are) take different shapes in different places and at different times, even if they have the same constituents. Though every human body has the same organs, every human being is different. Good doctors know this; good doctors listen to understand their patients' problems every time before prescribing treatments.

Crises and the inadequacy of the system

Macro-economists search for global solutions. Trade and monetary policies that fit the United States, China, Vietnam, or India will not fit the needs of others. Their needs have emerged from their own histories. Economists arrive at solutions by comparing data trends of different countries. They run their equations on computers. In their models, people are numbers. Economists do not listen to real people, whereas politicians try to at least. Indian economists complain that bad politics is coming in the way of good economics. Whereas bad economics could be coming in the way of harmonious progress of the country.

Einstein said that working harder to solve systemic problems with the same thinking that caused them is madness. Global solutions and economic theories invented in the West have caused problems, for which new solutions are essential. The inadequacy of the current paradigm was revealed by several crises in this millennium: the 2008 global financial crisis; inequitable management of the global COVID-19 pandemic; and the looming global climate crisis (in which, clearly, one solution cannot fit all).

'*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' (One Earth, One Family, One Future) is the theme of the G-20, which India is leading this year. A new economics is required. A movement to change the paradigm of economics' science to bring perspectives from the sciences of complex self-adaptive systems has begun even in the West. India's economists must step forward and not just follow these developments. They must lead them too.

In controlled digital lending, the issue of public interest

Arul George Scaria

is an associate professor at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU)

An ongoing legal tussle in the United States between four major publishers and the Internet Archive (IA), which is a not-for-profit organisation trying to build a globally accessible digital library, has, once again, posed a fundamental question about the interface of copyright law and technological advancements – should copyright law protect the broader public interests or the commercial interests of the copyright holders?

The IA has archived more than 735 billion web pages, 41 million books and texts, 14.7 million audio recordings, 8.4 million videos, 4.4 million images, and 890,000 software programs. Within a short span of time, the IA has become a truly global digital library to access information, particularly for persons with disabilities. A substantial portion of the books digitised by IA are outside copyright protection and are accessible without restrictions.

Publishers have alleged that around 3.6 million books, which have also been available to borrow under some conditions, are actually copyrighted. They have been particularly upset by the 'National Emergency Library' that the IA set up at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein the IA relaxed the conditions for lending.

The publishers have argued that the IA thus violated the diverse rights provided under copyright law for 127 titles published by them. The IA rebutted by arguing that books under copyright protection are lent only in a regulated manner, through 'Controlled Digital Lending' (CDL), and should, therefore, be considered to be 'fair use' under United States copyright law.

Understanding Controlled Digital Lending

The IA's CDL model follows the lending approach generally seen in physical libraries, where if one copy is owned, that copy can be loaned to one person at a time. So, the IA avails one digital copy of each non-circulating print book it has stored.

The outcome of the legal tussle in the U.S. between four major publishers and the Internet Archive will have ramifications for 'Controlled Digital Lending' initiatives across the world

Also, irrespective of the number of physical copies of that book that libraries participating in the IA's digitisation project own, for the purpose of digital lending it counts as only one additional copy per library. For example, if libraries of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Institute of Science, and the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) were partners in the IA's digitisation project and each of these institutions had six physical copies of a particular book on health law, the CDL model would ensure that readers could borrow no more than three copies of that book at a time.

But in a decision that can have far-reaching consequences for the future of CDL, the district court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) has ruled in the motions for summary judgments that the IA's activities violated various rights vested on publishers under copyright law, and that the activities do not constitute 'fair use' under the same law.

CDL and the public interest

Conversations with librarians indicate that lending physical copies of books from libraries, including at India's leading universities in India, has been on the decline. But that does not mean the demand for reading books is going down so much as that people's reading habits are changing. Closing physical libraries at the height of the pandemic may have just accelerated this shift. Today, many people prefer to read books on devices such as their smartphones and tablets.

The CDL is a positive response to this trend; it also helps bridge the gap between urban and rural, and the privileged and unprivileged, readers *vis-à-vis* access to books, because it allows even people in the remotest villages to access books from libraries that are far away.

It is also evident that CDL initiatives ease access to many books that may have gone out of print or may not be available to access in many physical libraries.

By making books accessible to readers, the CDL invokes enormous public benefits for education, research, and cultural participation. However, the court concluded that the public benefits highlighted by the IA "cannot outweigh the market harm to the publishers". In this regard, the court overlooked some of the evidence the IA produced with regard to the works in the suit, which indicated that even when the IA was engaging in CDL, the sales of print and electronic copies of these titles from the publisher's preferred platforms were not affected.

While assessing the public benefits *vis-à-vis* potential economic losses for copyright holders, the court also ignored the insights of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Google LLC vs Oracle America, Inc.*, (2021). In that landmark decision, the court suggested that when determining the potential market effects as part of the 'fair use' analysis, one would have to also weigh the public benefits of copying against potential financial losses for copyright holders.

India and CDL

Though India is yet to have a major CDL initiative, some universities such as the NLSIU have initiated major digitisation projects that can facilitate CDL in future. The outcome in the IA litigation will in turn have considerable ramifications for such initiatives, in India and elsewhere. In addition, even current lending practices in physical libraries could be threatened if other courts followed the SDNY district court's logic, in prioritising the economic interests of just one of the stakeholders over the broader public interest.

It is high time to remind ourselves that the copyright system is not just about protecting the interests of copyright holders, but, equally, about protecting the rights of the users of copyrighted works, and thus the broader public interest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China's 'renaming' move

In an effort to bolster its claim to India's Arunachal Pradesh, China's repeated game of 'renaming' places in the northeastern State has begun (Page 1, "China reveals plan to 'rename' 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh, April 4). India's External Affairs Ministry should emphasise the point that it is undeterred by such moves and that Arunachal Pradesh will always be an integral part of India.

Vijaykumar H.K.,
Raichur, Karnataka

The report is a disturbing development and shows how China's machinations are constantly at work amidst all the big talk of peace on the border. Such a move will definitely go against the spirit of friendly bilateral ties, and, instead, only heighten tensions on both sides.

There have been many meetings that have been held between the two countries for peace to prevail on the Line of Actual Control, but China's intention to maintain the status quo of an uneasy calm in the areas close to the border is palpable.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

It is clear that China is intent on causing trouble for all its neighbours. This needs to be stopped. It shows the arrogance of China to try and enlarge its territory.

Sravana Ramachandran,
Chennai

Stop this contagion

In a functional democracy, what is the point in allowing groups of self-appointed people to carry out "cow vigilantism" and deliver 'mob justice'? The gruesome track record of "cow vigilantism" must be sufficient to morally stigmatise, legally criminalise and socially annihilate this activity. But it seems that "cow vigilantes" are being glorified overtly and covertly in parts of the country and in some social media channels. It is anybody's guess which political party is behind this type of veneration. It remains to be seen how Karnataka will react, electorally and otherwise, to the spread of the contagion of "cow vigilantism" to the south.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Salim Durrani

With the passing of Salim Durrani, the cricketing world has lost one of its most charismatic players. He was flamboyant, fearless and a crowd puller. He would have easily fit the bill in today's shorter formats with his all-round ability ('Sport' page, "Debonair Durrani, star of yesteryear, passes away", April 3).

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

With cricket having become a money-spinner, Salim Durrani is sure to have been the prized player in the IPL auction had he been a player in this era. His stylish "sixers at ease" and swift left hand bowling won him fame in an age where there was hardly much television.

B. Gurumurthy,
Bengaluru

Salim Durrani represented an age where without the publicity, players quietly contributed their lot to Indian cricket.

R. Sekar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The second deck headline of the lead story on Surat court granting bail to Rahul Gandhi (April 4, 2023) erroneously referred to a defamation case filed by a BJP MP. Actually, it was a BJP MLA who had filed the defamation case.

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A case for marriage equality

On March 12, the Centre filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court frowning upon same-sex marriage. It invoked the "accepted view" that a marriage between a biological man and woman is a "holy union, a sacrament and sanskar (culture)" in India. Many hold the view that the issue should be debated by Parliament and not by the courts. More than 20 retired judges issued a statement saying that legalisation of same-sex marriage will "strike at the very root of the family system" and that "such a sensitive issue concerning the society at large be debated in the Parliament and State Legislature as well." The Union Law Minister argued that the issue should be left to the "wisdom of the people." And law professors such as Tahir Mahmood and G.S. Bajpai have also written about it.

But this will never happen. As the Union government has made its position clear on the legalisation of same-sex marriage and holds the view that queer people like me will wreak havoc on social institutions with our demands, Parliament will never enact such a law.

Rohin Bhatt

is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India and a bioethicist

Citizens with equal rights

Let us examine some of these arguments. First, it is argued that legalising queer marriages will destroy the concept of family, which is the "fundamental building block of society." For long, queer people have had to deal with their rights being granted as gifts from heteronormative society. But no more. We are equal citizens of the country and deserve the same rights as cisgender heterosexual people. Queer people are demanding equal rights, not just of marriage, but of horizontal reservation and protection from natal families. We don't demand these as largesse to be bestowed upon us by society, but that they be accorded to us as equal citizens of this democratic nation.

It is also argued that this is not a matter of judicial interference, but one of interpreting the statutes. For laypersons and lawyers alike, the interpretation of statutes is an art. It is not rare to find headlines with rulings that say 'frozen parathas are not rotis' or that 'Sachin Tendulkar is an actor and not a cricketer'. These examples simply show how lawyers often bend over backwards to interpret statutes in a way that fits their case. There is no reason that statutes cannot be interpreted creatively in favour of fundamental rights.

It is true that laws relating to marriage have a religious genesis. However, Indian law on marriage is a mixture of common law and religion. While traditionally, marriage under Hindu law is a sacrament, it stopped being so when divorce was introduced. Marriage is now nothing but a status conferred by law. The court said in the Sabarimala case that religion must give way to constitutional morality, though a review of the judgment is pending. Nevertheless, most parties in the marriage equality case before the court are those who want to get married under the Hindu Marriage Act. Queer relationships were not an aberration in Hinduism, as scholars Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai have demonstrated. The remaining petitions are filed under the Special Marriage Act, save for Zainab Patel's petition which argues for marriage equality under all religious laws.

It is also argued that the laws pertaining to marriage necessitate procreation. While this may be true, there seem to be no attempts to take away the marriage rights of heterosexual married couples who do not procreate as per mutual consent. While entering into a queer relationship, both parties are aware that they will be unable to procreate. This is called 'social' or 'circumstantial' infertility. The term was initially coined to describe women who did not have children despite no medical condition, and is now used in the context of queer people too. If both parties decide to marry with the knowledge that one or both of them are impotent, there cannot be a case for taking away their rights merely because they are queer.

It is also said that conventional conceptualisations of family and marriage are facing evolutionary challenges. This argument is based on the idea that a family comprises two parents of the opposite sex and their two children. This argument makes it seem as though new forms of marriage which are non-heterosexual are new. They are not. The hijara 'gharana' system, maitri karar and other forms of alternative familial structures have existed for a long time in the sub-continent.

A legitimate legal need

This is not to argue that marriage will lead to queer liberation. In fact, marriage does not obfuscate but lays bare the caste hierarchies that embolden discrimination and segregation. But despite being a faulty institution, marriage is a legitimate legal need in order to file taxes jointly, inherit property, open bank accounts, and choose nominees for insurance policies.

Queer people cannot wait until society thinks it is acceptable for us to have rights. We refuse to be polite citizens, we will continue to be unapologetic about our sexuality, and we will continue to challenge widespread notions of respectability, of marriage, and procreation. We refuse to cower in the terror of knowing that the only way we can survive is if we are smart, lucky, or are fighters. We demand that notions of family and traditions be broadened and notions of acceptability and respectability be demolished. Legal recognition of queerness and love should not be opposed by the state or by some supposedly well-meaning proponents of the doctrine of separation of powers. Queerness and queer love deserve not just legal recognition by the state, but to be celebrated.

Legal recognition of queerness and love should not be opposed by the state or by proponents of the doctrine of separation of powers

Congress's changing fortunes in Kerala

The current sympathy for Rahul Gandhi is unlikely to result in significant gains

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
biju.govind@thehindu.co.in

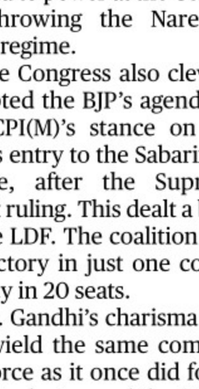
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as a member of the Lok Sabha was condemned by both the Congress-led UDF and the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF in Kerala. Mr. Gandhi was disqualified soon after he was convicted on charges of criminal defamation by a Surat court.

The allies of both the coalitions in Kerala denounced the swift removal of Mr. Gandhi's MP status as "authoritarian and anti-democratic." The BJP was quick to argue that Mr. Gandhi is not above the law.

Regardless of whether or not Mr. Gandhi will receive a reprieve from a higher court, the issue has generated a wave of sympathy for him. If he is permitted to contest the Lok Sabha election in 2024, the former Congress president is likely to run for the Wayanad seat. However, if the court verdict is unfavourable, Wayanad will hold a by-election.

Despite the controversy surrounding his disqualification, the impact of the Rahul Gandhi factor on Kerala politics is significant, as demonstrated by the strong reactions from the State's major political parties. However, it remains to be seen how his legal battles will play out and whether he will continue to impact the State's political landscape in the coming months.

The CPI(M) State leadership has already responded to the BJP's prodding on whether the UDF and LDF will jointly present a candidate for the by-polls. It has declared its resolve to field a candidate if a by-election occurs. The unambiguous statement by the CPI



(M) Kerala unit secretary, M.V. Govindan that the party's condemnation of Mr. Gandhi's disqualification was principle-based and not individual-based has put an end to any speculation.

The CPI(M) is averse to finding itself in a situation similar to the one that it faced during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when Mr. Gandhi boldly threw his hat in the ring from Wayanad as his second seat. The Congress's strategic move not only breathed fresh life into its electoral prospects in Kerala, but also helped unleash a strong campaign across the State. The UDF's fortunes were lifted by the general belief that the Congress would ascend to power at the Centre, overthrowing the Narendra Modi regime.

The Congress also cleverly co-opted the BJP's agenda on the CPI(M)'s stance on women's entry to the Sabarimala shrine, after the Supreme Court ruling. This dealt a blow to the LDF. The coalition tasted victory in just one constituency in 20 seats.

Mr. Gandhi's charisma may not wield the same compelling force as it once did for its novelty factor, and the CPI(M) has learned its lessons from the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. This enabled the CPI(M) to retain power in the 2021 Assembly polls. Currently the political discourse centres around Opposition unity, aimed at thwarting the Modi-led government's bid for a third consecutive term in power at the Centre. The media attention surrounding Mr. Gandhi's disqualification will probably be overshadowed soon by other issues arising in the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress's gains in Kerala, which were achieved through Mr. Gandhi's Wayanad candidacy, have lost significance. The Bharat Jodo Yatra enhanced his prestige. However, the Central leadership is embarrassed by the continuous infighting within the Congress in Kerala, which is expected to adversely impact the forthcoming polls.

A hint that there has been a loss of gains came from Thalassery Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany's statement offering to assist the BJP in opening its account in Kerala in the general election on the condition that the Centre agrees to raise the price of rubber procurement to ₹300 per kg. Thamarassery Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil supported the Archbishop's statement saying that the Church would stand by those who help the rubber farmers and that the BJP was not untouchable for them. In the previous Lok Sabha polls, the Christian community overwhelmingly backed the Congress, especially after Mr. Gandhi chose to contest from Wayanad. It is possible that the Catholic Church, particularly a segment of the Syro-Malabar Church, now envisages a scenario where the BJP will hold power at the Centre.

The outcome of the Karnataka Assembly polls is expected to be a turning point. A clear majority for the Congress would bolster Mr. Gandhi's reputation and elevate the Congress's credibility. The results of the Karnataka election are likely to reverberate across Kerala.

Gujarat refineries form lion's share of India's surging fuel exports

Its share in India's exports increased from 20.8% between FY18 and FY21 to 30% in FY22

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in two significant developments, which have subsequently sparked a surge in India's fuel exports. The first is the increased import of cheaper crude from Russia. Second, more countries are depending on India for their fuel needs.

In the last five years, the export of petrol and high-speed diesel by public sector units in India to countries other than Nepal and Bhutan almost doubled from 3,353 TMT to 6,376 TMT (thousand metric tonnes). Petroleum products were the most exported commodities from India to the Netherlands, China, Singapore, the U.K., the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Indonesia, Turkey and South Africa in FY23 (April 2022 to January 2023). The Netherlands imported $8,890 million worth of petroleum products from India – the highest by any country in that period. This was a 186% increase from the country's imports five years ago.

Refineries in Gujarat are at the centre of this sudden fuel export boom. The State exported ₹4.9 lakh crore worth of petroleum products in FY23. In contrast, Karnataka, the second biggest exporter of the commodity, sent out only ₹0.44 lakh crore worth of petroleum oils, which is more than 10 times less than Gujarat. Overall, Gujarat exported 77% of India's petroleum oils in FY23.

Export of petroleum oils formed over 65% of Gujarat's total exports in FY23. In no other State except Himachal Pradesh did a single product dominate exports to this extent. Exports of medicaments formed 79% of Himachal Pradesh's total exports. Moreover, the export of petroleum oils formed over 21.7% of Gujarat's GSDP in FY23, the highest share among all the States. Goa was a distant second with the export of medicaments forming 4.9% of its GSDP that year. No other State crossed the 4% mark.

All these factors have boosted Gujarat's share in India's exports. Gujarat's share in India's exports increased from 20.8% between FY18 and FY21 to 30% in FY22 **(Chart 1).** No other State recorded such a jump. Odisha came close with its share increasing by 1.5% points in that period. On the other hand, Maharashtra's share declined from 21.4% to 17.3%.

The recent surge in India's exports is mainly fuelled by petroleum products, the most exported commodity in three States – Gujarat, Karnataka and Bihar **(Map 2)**. The map shows the most exported commodity in value terms across States. In Punjab and Haryana, basmati rice was the most exported item, while in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, it was vannamei shrimp. Diamonds from Maharashtra, unset gold from West Bengal, smartphones from Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, and tea from Assam were the other most exported items. Medicine for retail sale was the most exported item from Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Telangana and Sikkim.

Diamonds, the most exported commodity from Maharashtra in value terms in FY23, formed 38% of the State's exports and 2.6% of the State's GDP (**Table 3).** In that year, Maharashtra exported ₹90,320 crore worth of diamonds, but that was still about five times less than Gujarat's petroleum oil exports that year. Though the most exported commodity from Tamil Nadu is smartphones, it formed only 13% of the State's total exports. This is because the State exports a diverse set of goods.

In five States, the most exported product formed over 50% of their total exports. Goa and Himachal Pradesh (medicaments), Gujarat and Bihar (petroleum oils) and Assam (tea) showed high dependency on a single product.

Making hay while the sun shines

The table and charts are based on data collated from the Commerce Ministry, various State Budgets and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

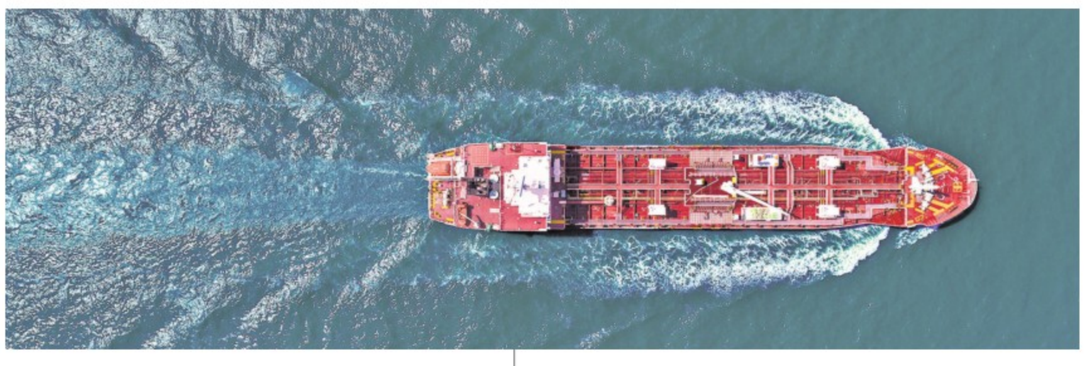
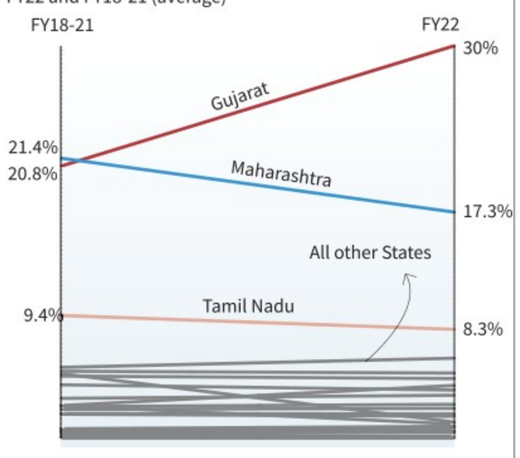


Chart 1 | The chart shows a State's share in India's exports in FY22 and FY18-21 (average)



Map 2 | The map shows the most exported commodity in value terms across States

Table 3 | The table shows the most exported commodities' share in a State's total exports and its GSDP in FY23

State	Parent commodity	Value of exports in crore (FY23)	As a % of State's exports	As a % of GSDP
Gujarat	Petroleum oils	4,90,928	65.4	21.7
Goa	Medicaments	4,487	53.5	4.9
Odisha	Aluminium	28,230	40.4	3.7
Himachal	Medicaments	6,430	79.2	3.3
Maharashtra	Diamonds	90,320	38.2	2.6
Karnataka	Petroleum oils	44,716	38.6	2.0
Haryana	Rice	17,728	33.9	1.8
Chhattisgarh	Rice	7,203	44.9	1.6
Uttar Pradesh	Smartphones	29,564	31.8	1.4
Telangana	Medicaments	17,506	43.7	1.4
Bihar	Petroleum oils	10,327	61.6	1.3
Delhi	Turbo jets	13,242	42.4	1.3
Andhra	Shrimp	16,505	17.4	1.3
Punjab	Rice	4,932	20.2	0.8
Tamil Nadu	Smartphones	17,893	13.1	0.8
Uttarakhand	Zinc	2,238	35.0	0.7
West Bengal	Gold unset	8,276	15.9	0.5
Rajasthan	Zinc	5,689	16.6	0.4
M.P.	Wheat & durum	5,310	14.2	0.4
Assam	Tea	1,723	55.7	0.3
Kerala	Shrimp	2,349	16.2	0.2
Jharkhand	Hot rolled steel coils	692	9.0	0.2
J&K	Medicaments	273	24.9	0.1

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 5, 1973

Europe's first test for common currency

Luxembourg, April 4: The European Monetary Co-operation Fund, first step to a possible European currency by 1980, was established in Luxembourg when the Chairman of the Common Market Council of Foreign Ministers, Mr. Renst Van Elslande, signed the document setting up the fund, two years after its creation was decided. The fund will be temporarily in Luxembourg, as a result of a compromise after a dispute which pitted little Luxembourg against Britain. The fund will have an initial capital of $1.80 million, to be used to support European currencies and keep them in line with each other. The fund which is to contribute to the establishment of a monetary union and to become part of a community organisation of central banks will in the first stage ensure functioning of the Community exchange system and will cover intra-Community settlements and the administration of short and very short-term financing. - AP

AFP reports: The EEC Commission yesterday came out for a "substantial" cut in tariffs during the coming GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) multilateral trade negotiations. Giving details of the Commission's proposals Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames said that the aim of negotiations should be to achieve "substantial reductions", although the Commission felt the moment was not ripe for complete generalised tariff abolition. The EEC was putting forward no figures, but suggested a simple formula that could be applied generally, Sir Christopher said. His formula should take account of the tariff structures of the various countries in the negotiations. The biggest cuts should be on high tariffs and smaller cuts on medium rates. It might be possible to envisage no cuts on low tariffs. Although total abolition was not possible at the moment, some existing tariffs might be swept away.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 5, 1923

In East Africa

Darassalaam (Tanganyika), Apl. 4: The Chamber of Commerce here has passed a resolution accepting the new taxes in order to maintain constitutional procedure, but under protest. Indian and Arab firms have closed down all over the territory and business has come to standstill. The Government is buying active foodstuffs.

From Page One

Modi discusses security issues with Bhutan King

This was followed by lunch at the Prime Minister's residence. "We had a warm and productive meeting. Deeply value our close friendship and the vision of successive Druk Gyalpos (Bhutanese Kings) in guiding India-Bhutan relations to new heights," the PM tweeted after the meeting.

Reform, development focus

Mr. Kwatra said that while strategic issues were discussed, the focus of the talks was on bilateral ties and, the Bhutanese King's "Transformation Initiatives and Reforms Process", and India's support for Bhutan's development plans, including the 13th Five Year Plan that starts from next year. Bhutan is set to graduate from the list of Least Developed Countries in 2023, and its 21st century Economic Roadmap aims to turn the Himalayan kingdom into a developed country with a per-capita income of $12,000 in the next 10 years. India has also agreed to extend Bhutan a third additional standby credit facility.

According to the Foreign Secretary, the leaders discussed India's financial support for reforms and institutional capacity building, infrastructure and connectivity projects, energy cooperation including hydropower and solar energy projects, as well as space cooperation including the recent launch of the India-Bhutan satellite.

On hydropower, the government has agreed to a long pending demand from Thimphu to increase the power tariffs for the Chhukha hydroelectric project, which began operations with India's help in 1986. India has also agreed to discuss buying power from the Basochhu hydel project that was built in 2008. Mr. Kwatra added that the two sides would try to expedite the negotiations on the reservoir-based 2,500 MW Sankosh hydel project, that has been stuck for decades over environmental and cost concerns.

Responding to a question about the dwindling number of Bhutanese students opting to study in India, Mr. Kwatra said that Bhutanese citizens continue to receive "national treatment" in India, on par with Indian citizens, but both countries were looking for new ways to build on the partnership.

'New names won't affect India's sovereignity'

"Almost three years later, Chinese forces continue to deny our patrols access to the strategic Depsang Plains to which we previously had unimpeded access. And now the Chinese are attempting to undermine the status quo in Arunachal Pradesh," said AICC communications chief Jairam Ramesh.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has also criticised PM Modi saying, "The country is suffering because of the clean chit that Mr. Modi gave the Chinese after Galwan."

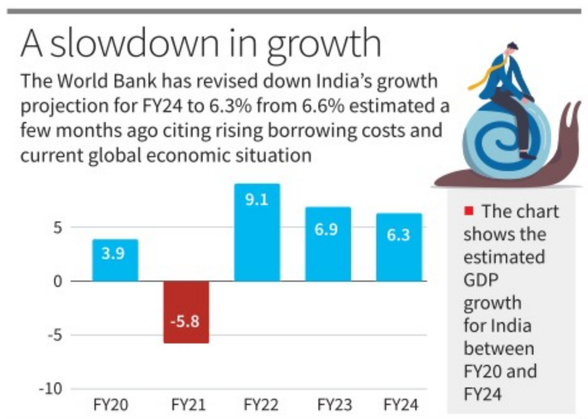
"20,000 sq km land China has snatched, changing names of places – Prime Minister is silent. After all why so scared?" said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Monday's announcement of 'renaming' of 11 places in Arunachal in China came even as India is hosting the King of Bhutan, which has announced that China has not occupied any of its territory with Prime Minister Lotay Tshering saying, "there is no intrusion". The comments from PM Tshering indicated that Bhutan is giving priority to the Chinese position on the border issue, which last flared up during the 2018 Doklam crisis.

World Bank lowers India's growth forecast to 6.3% for this fiscal year

Reasons include high borrowing costs and slower income growth causing weaker consumption, as well as the government tightening fiscal expenditure, says report; however, situation is better than in many other countries in South Asia

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON



The World Bank has forecast a 6.3% economic growth rate for India in the current fiscal year, which ends on March 31, 2024, a downgrade of 0.7 percentage points since its October forecast.

The primary reasons for this are high borrowing costs and slower income growth causing weaker consumption, as well as the government tightening fiscal expenditure, the World Bank said in its *South Asia Economic Focus: Expanding Opportunities: Toward Inclusive Growth* report, released ahead of next week's Spring Meetings in Washington DC.

While India fared better than the rest of the South Asian region, two major concerns were the female labour participation rate, which had dropped to below 20%, and the informal sector neither becoming more productive nor shrinking, according to the study's lead economist.

The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.4% in FY 2024-25 , an upgrade of 0.3 percentage points from the previous forecast. The South Asia region as a whole is expected to grow at 5.6% this calendar year.

"In general, the situation in India is better than in many of the other countries in South Asia," World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia Hans Timmer told reporters at a virtual briefing on Tuesday. "And especially the situation in the financial sector is healthier than many of the other countries," he said, adding that banks were "in good shape" and had improved after the pandemic.

However, the female labour participation rate and the size, and (low) productivity of the informal sector were concerns, he said.

"So there is still a huge structural agenda in India to make growth more inclusive to increase participation," he said, adding that private investment from abroad needed to be increased, especially in the services sector.

The services sector – and then the construction sector – were the fastest growing industries in India, according to the World Bank. Investment growth remained strong and business confidence was high in India, the report said.

"The government has done a lot to improve social protection, but that is by itself not enough. Ultimately, it is about increasing more opportunities in the labour market and there's still a long way to go," Mr. Timmer said.

Outlook for neighbours

The outlook for India's neighbours Sri Lanka and Pakistan was bleaker.

The World Bank forecast for Sri Lanka this calendar year was -4.3% (i.e., a contraction) and for Pakistan was 0.4% for the year ending June 30, 2023. The political uncertainty in Pakistan made making decisive reforms harder, Mr. Timmer said, adding that it was important to have wide buy-in for the "reform process". Islamabad is negotiating the release of a $1.1 billion tranche of a larger $6.5 billion bailout package with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has been delayed, as the IMF awaits assurances from Pakistan that it can finance this year's balance of payments deficit.

Sri Lanka, which faced economic collapse last year, negotiated a $3 billion loan from the IMF at the end of March and is hoping to secure further financing from international institutions.

"Hopefully, Sri Lanka can turn the corner now as an IMF program has been put in place which makes it easier also for the World Bank to to support Sri Lanka," he said.

Seven tourists killed after hit by avalanche near Nathu La

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seven people were killed and 20 have been rescued after five or six vehicles along with 20-30 tourists were hit by an avalanche near Nathu La in eastern Sikkim on Tuesday morning. Search and rescue efforts were called off after another avalanche at the same location at 5.35 p.m., officials said.

"At about 11.30 a.m., a massive avalanche hit the Gangtok-Nathu La road near MS-15 (between Mile 13 and 17). Approximately five-six vehicles along with 20-30 tourists on way to Nathu La are feared to have been stuck under the snow," a defence official said. "So far, 27 persons were rescued and taken to a nearby Army medical facility. However, seven persons succumbed."

The other 20 were administered first aid and returned to Gangtok, officials said. The JNM Axis between Gangtok to Nathu La is closed now due to the avalanche.

It's sad Opposition did not allow Budget debate: Sitharaman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

With two days remaining for the Budget Session of Parliament to end, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday she was "sad" about not having a debate on the Union Budget, adding the Opposition was trying to distract attention from the "positives" of the economy.

The Modi government, she told reporters, has been presenting "honest and transparent" Budgets year after year. She said that she looked forward to the debate every year, that many members had insightful questions, and explaining the government's ideas behind the Budget was important.

Noting the buoyant direct and indirect revenue collections and inflation hovering around the upper tolerance limit amid a sluggish global economy, Ms. Sitharaman said India remains the fastest growing major economy globally. "The Indian economy is a success story," she said, citing Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hitting an average of ₹1,50,000 crore and net direct tax collections rising by 18% this year, despite tax rates not being raised.

Lokpal closes 68% graft complaints against officers without action: report

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Around 68% corruption complaints against public functionaries that landed with the Lokpal of India were "disposed of" without any action in the past four years. Only three complaints were fully investigated, according to information provided by the Lokpal's office to a parliamentary panel.

Nearly 90% complaints were not "in the prescribed format". The Lokpal of India, the country's first anti-corruption body instituted four years ago to investigate complaints against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, submitted to a parliamentary panel that "it has not prosecuted even a single person accused of graft till date."

According to data provided by the Lokpal office to a parliamentary panel on the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), since 2019-20, the anti-corruption body received 8,703 complaints, out of which 5,981 complaints were disposed of.

As many as 6,775 complaints were rejected for not being in the correct format. The office said that only three complaints were fully investigated, and 36 complaints were at a preliminary stage. In 2022-23, as many as 2,760 complaints were received, out of which only 242 were in the prescribed format.

On January 5, the Lokpal of India issued an order that henceforth, complaints received by the office of the Lokpal of India that were not in the prescribed form would not be entertained at any level.

On Jan. 5, the Lokpal said that complaints not filed in a prescribed form will not be entertained

The report said: "The Committee infers from the data provided by Lokpal that a large number of complaints are being disposed of on the ground that the complaint is not in the prescribed format. Lokpal has submitted to the Committee that it has not prosecuted even a single person accused of graft till date."

Though the Act was passed in 2013, the country's first Lokpal, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, was appointed on March 19, 2019, along with eight other members. Justice Ghosh moved out of office in May 2022 after attaining 70 years of age and since then, Pradip Kumar Mohanty has been acting as the Chairperson of Lokpal.

The Lokpal was allocated a budget of ₹197 crore in 2022-23 and till January 31, it incurred an expenditure of ₹152 crore. For the current fiscal, it has been allotted ₹92 crore.

The panel, headed by BJP member Sushil Kumar Modi, said the Lokpal was set up to strengthen the legal and institutional mechanisms to deal with corruption in public life, "however, the performance of Lokpal seems to be far from satisfactory".

It said the Lokpal was established in an effort to promote clean and responsive governance and therefore, the Lokpal should act as an enabler.

Communal mindset: MEA responds to OIC remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday hit out at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), terming its comments on the recent violence during the Ram Navami processions in different parts of the country, as a reflection of its "communal mindset". "We strongly condemn the statement issued by OIC Secretariat today regarding India. This is one more example of their communal mindset and anti-India agenda. OIC only does its reputation damage by being consistently manipulated by anti-India forces," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"The OIC Secretariat denounces such provocative acts of violence and vandalism, which are a vivid manifestation of mounting Islamophobia and systemic targeting of the Muslim community. The OIC calls upon the Indian authorities to take firm actions against the instigators and perpetrators," it said.

Germany may offer sale of advanced submarines to India

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Request For Proposal was issued in July 2021 to MDL and L&T with 12 weeks to respond

Germany is expected to present a proposal to India for the sale of advanced conventional submarines through the government-to-government route, it is learnt. The Navy, which is staring at a dwindling subsurface fleet, is looking to procure six advanced diesel-electric submarines under Project-75I estimated to cost over ₹45,000 crore.

"A proposal for submarines through the G-to-G route is being prepared and would be presented to the Government of India soon," a diplomatic source said. A visit by German Defence Minister to India in the next few months is in the works, sources said, during which the proposal could be formally presented. The issue also came up for discussion during the visit of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in February.

In January 2020, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) shortlisted Mazgaon Docks Ltd. (MDL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) as the Indian partners for the P-75 deal, the first to be processed under the strategic partnership model of the procurement procedure.

The five foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEM) are Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (South Korea), Naval Group (France), Navantia (Spain), Rosoboronexport (Russia) and Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS, Germany).

The Request For Proposal (RFP) was originally issued in July 2021 to MDL and L&T with 12 weeks to respond and has since been extended several times. The project ran into rough weather over a specification that the submarine on offer should have an operational Air Independent Propulsion module with an endurance of two weeks.

Beijing freezes visas of *The Hindu*'s correspondent and another journalist

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a surprising move, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) decided to "freeze" the visas of two Indian journalists based in Beijing, indicating that more "counter measures" could follow against other Indian journalists, unless New Delhi offers reciprocal visa and tenure terms to Chinese journalists in India.

On Tuesday, a Chinese MFA official informed *The Hindu*'s Beijing correspondent, Ananth Krishnan, and the Prasar Bharati correspondent, Anshuman Mishra, both of whom are now in India, that they should not return to China as their journalistic visas had been "frozen".

'Counter-measures'

Two other journalists, one of the news agency PTI and the other of the *Hindustan Times,* who are at present in China, have been informed that the MFA is considering its options and "counter measures" against what it claims is India's unfair treatment of Chinese journalists.

China is reportedly demanding more visas for its correspondents to cover India. It is also asking for current visas, which need to be renewed every three months, to be increased to 12-month visas, as the Chinese MFA provides Indian journalists with year-long visas.

India's External Affairs Ministry declined to comment formally on the move. However, sources denied that India had taken any action against Chinese journalists in the recent past. They said many Chinese reporters in Delhi had left during the pandemic and not returned, and it was "factually incorrect" to suggest any "measures" that merited "counter-measures" had been employed against them.

'No action'

The Ministry sources also pointed out that there are still some Chinese journalists with valid Indian visas, who could report from India if they so wished. In addition, the sources said that Chinese journalists had been facilitated to cover the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Delhi and a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Varanasi.

From about a dozen correspondents a decade ago, there were only about four Chinese journalists based in India by the end of 2022. In 2016, India had expelled three journalists belonging to State media network Xinhua after security agencies accused them of "indulging in activities beyond their journalistic brief". Since then, the rift in India-China ties has grown, especially after the stand-off between the Armies of the two countries over Chinese troops' transgressions along the Line of Actual Control in April 2020. The matter is reportedly now being discussed between the Indian Embassy in Beijing and the Chinese MFA.

41% increase in CUET-UG applicants recorded this year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An increase of 41% has been registered in the number of students who will appear for this year's Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to undergraduate courses in Central universities. As many as 16.85 lakh students have registered and 13.99 lakh students paid the application fee and submitted the form for this year, in an increase of about four lakh from last year's figures. The deadline for applications was March 30.

University Grants Commission Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said the number of participating universities has increased to 242 in 2023 from 90 in 2022. "This significant rise indicates that CUET-UG is becoming a popular option for admissions to UG programmes," Professor Kumar said.

Of the 13.99 lakh students who will sit for the examinations, 6.51 lakh are women. In 2022, 4.34 lakh applicants of the total 9.9 lakh were women. Compared to 2022, the increase in the number of women applicants is 50%.

APPEAL

Baby Kathiravan, 1 year old hailing from a poor family. He suffers from VSD and needs Rs. 2,00,000/- for the VSD Closure (Heart Surgery) at Public Health Centre, Chennai. Kindly help him to have a new life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.: 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque)**.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Why wasn't BJP MP disqualified, asks Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday wrote to Speaker Om Birla seeking a debate on the disqualification of party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Chowdhury pointed out that BJP MP Naranbhai Kachhadiya did not face the same action and continued to be a Lok Sabha member when he was convicted in 2016. Mr. Kachhadiya later got relief from the Supreme Court.

Mr. Chowdhury said it was "intriguing" to note that Mr. Gandhi was "summarily disqualified" from the Lok Sabha in the wake of the Surat court verdict, though the two-year sentence was suspended for one month. "What is sauce for the goose must be sauce for the gander," Mr. Chowdhury wrote.

Rahul Gandhi questions PM's silence on Adani controversy

Congress leader raises question over '₹20,000 crore invested in shell companies of Adani Group'; BJP slams him for snubbing journalist, says it shows his mindset and calls him an 'arrogant dynast'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi drew a sharp reaction from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday after he asked a journalist, "Why do you always say what the BJP is saying?"

The BJP accused Mr. Gandhi of "attacking" the media again.

Mr. Gandhi, who was walking into the Congress headquarters in New Delhi, was asked about the BJP's allegation that he tried to pressure the judiciary by taking along a large number of party leaders and workers while filing an appeal in a Surat court against his conviction in a defamation case on Monday. Mr. Gandhi walked back to the media posse and asked, "Why do you always say what the BJP is saying? Every time you say what BJP is saying."

Political tussle: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arriving at the AICC office in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

He said the "real question" was about ₹20,000 crore that had been invested in the shell companies of the Adani Group. "There is a very simple thing. Who owns the ₹20,000 crore in Adani*ji*'s shell companies? It is *benami*. Who owns it?" he said, reiterating his allegations.

In a tweet later, Mr. Gandhi questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence", and asked why is he "frightened".

The BJP said that "insulting the country's backward classes and the media is Rahul Gandhi's mindset" and called him an "arrogant dynast".

"Rahul Gandhi has again attacked the fourth pillar of democracy. Insulting the country's backward classes and the media is Rahul Gandhi's mindset. He is following in the footsteps of his grandmother with his audacity to frequently attack the country's democratic system," BJP's chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni tweeted.

Mr. Gandhi's snub to a journalist during a recent press conference had drawn flak after he was asked about the BJP's allegation of insulting OBCs with his "Modi surname" jibe.

House panel keeps Adani issue off agenda, discusses Silicon Valley Bank collapse

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Opposition asks why it should shy away from probing an episode of market turbulence in India

At a meeting of the Parliament Standing Committee on Finance, headed by BJP MP Jayant Sinha, to discuss the aftermath of the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, Opposition members on Monday renewed their demand for a probe into the failure of market regulators in the alleged stock manipulation by the Adani Group, sources said.

In Monday's meeting, sources said, Congress MPs Pramod Tiwari and Gaurav Gogoi forcefully argued that if an Indian parliamentary panel can investigate the fallout of collapse of a private bank whose headquarters is in Silicon Valley, U.S., why should it shy away from investigating an episode of market turbulence closer to home. The incident has affected several domestic investors, especially those who have savings in State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which in turn has investments in the Adani Group, they said.

Mr. Tiwari, Mr. Gogoi and Lok Sabha member Manish Tiwari have submitted a letter to Mr. Sinha, placing their demand for an investigation into the problems in the oversight mechanism in this case and violations of the laid-down norms and procedure, on record.

The BJP members, led by former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, had argued that not only is the matter *sub judice* since an Supreme Court-appointed committee is looking at dereliction of duty by the SEBI, it is beyond the remit of a parliamentary panel to probe a private entity.

"We can investigate the fallout of collapse of an American bank and failure of American regulators to check it, but the dereliction of Indian market regulator in case of the alleged stock manipulation by the Adani group, is beyond our ambit. This is absurd," a member on the condition of anonymity told *The Hindu*.

While Mr. Sinha has refused to concede the demands, an Opposition member said that they will continue to raise their demand.

Ghulam Nabi Azad refuses to rule out post-poll alliance with any party in J&K

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Ghulam Nabi Azad, who ended his five-decade association with the Congress to launch his own Democratic Progressive Azad Party last year, said that the talk of his party being a B-team of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir was "nonsense".

However, in a conversation with *The Hindu* on Tuesday, he refused to categorically rule out the possibility of a future post-poll alliance with any party, including the BJP.

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Ghulam Nabi Azad

In his autobiography *Azaad*, being released on Wednesday, the former Congress stalwart – who has written about his close association with Indira Gandhi and her sons, Sanjay and Rajiv – referred to his personal rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi despite being the Leader of the Opposition.

"Throughout my speeches, I found Modi to be a great listener. Not even once did he rebut my arguments or speak against me, inside or outside Parliament. He would always remain calm, though he would taunt me by making some political references. But he never attacked me personally. This may also have been because, unlike other leaders, I would not call the PM or other members of the ruling party names or abuse them," Mr. Azad wrote in his book.

The former Chief Minister of J&K said that his priority was to restore Statehood, adding that his party would not ally with any other party before the election.

"Before the elections, it is not politically wise for any political party to say they will go with A or B. As of now, I think I will have to go alone. Who knew in Punjab, Aam Admi Party will make the Akalis and the Congress disappear. If AAP can happen in Punjab, why can't my party happen in Jammu and Kashmir?" he added.

On the question of the restoration of J&K's special status under Article 370, he said, "No State government can undo and restore it, the Government of India has to do it. Either Prime Minister Narendra Modi can do it or the Supreme Court. Why should Mr. Modi do it, because he is taking credit for it. And the Supreme Court has had one hearing in four years."

'Modi' name does not denote a single group: Rahul

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has argued in a Surat sessions court that the term 'Modi' "neither denotes a single community nor a single caste nor a single vocational group".

Mr. Gandhi, represented by senior advocate R.S. Cheema and advocate Tarannum Cheema, contended that the word "Modi", from the evidence on record that surfaced in the course of his criminal defamation trial, "does not refer to a clearly identifiable or determinable group of persons".

In fact, the Congress leader, whose two-year sentence was suspended by the sessions court, said he could provide "authentic literature showing that the word 'Modi' does not indicate any definite, clearly identifiable or determinate group of persons".

"It is widely known that the surname 'Modi' is used even within Muslims and Parsis besides a number of Hindu castes," his appeal said.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate at Surat had concluded in March that "to achieve his personal political gain, the accused [Mr. Gandhi] has insulted and defamed the current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's surname 'Modi' by calling him 'thief' and by saying so, he has defamed 13 crore people residing in India with surname 'Modi'".

Judicially settled

In his appeal, Mr. Gandhi argued that it was already judicially settled by the Supreme Court that an allegation of criminal defamation would stand only if an "offending" statement was made against a "definite and determinate body" and not an "innumerably huge number".

The appeal alleged that even the complainant, appearing as his own witness, made a "very important admission" that it is true that Modi surname is found in various castes and communities. It is true that the Modi surname does not mean that it is a certain community... It is true that there is no such association of people gathering at one place having the surname of Modi".

A statement forming the basis of an allegation of defamation "must be read as a whole" and the question of defamation ought to be examined both in the textual as well as contextual perspective, he contended.

Read as a whole, the entire speech focuses on issues of national economy, the larger interests of the people of India, the huge loss being caused to the country by the activities of economic offenders, and the shadow of political protection on the entire episode, the appeal said.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Tender Call Notice No. : H.O./P&C/EST-E-2062/01/2022 10155 Dated : 31.03.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement (4th)
Name of the Work :- Providing first and last mile connectivity of 3.01 km long 2-Lane approach road with drain from Rajoda Chhaka (Ch.0/00Km) to MSME Park at Bamani (Ch.3/010 Km at Nabrangpur District in Odisha for bridging connectivity gap.
Estimated Cost :- Rs.464.27 lakhs (approx.)
Period of Completion : 05 (Five) Calendar Months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id No. P&C/EST/ E- 185 / 2022-23	17.00 Hours of 12.04.2023	17.00 Hours of 27.04.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in .
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-22 OIPR-14003/11/0001/2324

E-mail : eekalahandi@gmail.com; FAX No.06670-230512
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
KALAHANDI (R&B) DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA
E-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. BC KLD-64/2022-23
No. 5128 Dated. 30.03.2023

1.	No. of the work	:	04 (Four) numbers Civil Work
2.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.150 Lakhs to Rs.300.00 Lakhs
3.	Period of Completion	:	05 (five) Calendar Months.
4.	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	11.00 hrs of 06.04.2023 to 17.00 hrs of 18.04.2023
5.	Last date /Time for receipt of bid in the portal	:	17.00 hour of 18.04.2023
6.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi (R&B) Division, Bhawanipatna.
7.	Date & Venue of Opening of the Single Cover Bid and Technical Bid (Cover 1) of Double cover Bid	:	On 19.04.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi (R&B) Division, Bhawanipatna.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in
(Er. S.K. Naik)
Executive Engineer, Kalahandi (R&B) Division
B-14 : OIPR-34017/11/0001/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID:- eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION: KHARIAR
e - Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No : SERNBKHR - 11 / 2022-23
Letter No.1627 // Dtd.29.03.2023
The Executive Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1.	Nature of Work	: Buildings work
3.	No. of tender	: Buildings work - 2 Nos.
4.	Tender Cost	: Rs.l0,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	: B/A Class.
6.	Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	: From Dt. 05.04.2023, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.19.04.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
7.	Date of opening Bid	: Dt.20.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : http://tendersorissa.gov.in.
All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.
Executive Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar.
B-9: OIPR-34062/11/0001/2324

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Expression of Interest Proposal
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No. 9066-IN
Date: April 03, 2023
The Director(Projects), HPRIDCL Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Expression of Interest Proposal from national consultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:

Sr. No.	Description Services of the Consultancy	Date of availability of Detailed Request for Expression of Interest-cum- Request proposal/Expression of Interest Proposal Document on HPRIDC web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals
1.	Consultancy Services for Review/ update Study of Road Financing Mechanism Study for Himachal Pradesh	April 05, 2023 (Request for Expression of Interest Proposal document)	May 09, 2023 at 1500 hours (IST)

Note: Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest-cum-Request for Proposals/Request for Expression of Interest Proposal Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on official web site of HPRIDC under http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html. link.
Director (Projects), HPRIDCL,
Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar,
Shimla-171002(H.P)
Facsimile: +91-177-2620663;
Tel: +91-177-2627602,
E-mail: pdsrp-hp@nic.in
HP / 0020/2023-2024

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
ANANDPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.
DIST :- KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN: 758020
Tel No. (06731) 295003
E-Mail:cceabp@gmail.com/loabpbbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No-CCEABP-01 / 2023-24
The Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada, on behalf of the Governer of Odisha, invites On-line tenders in double cover system from eligible bidders as detailed below:-
1. Name of work :- Appointment of Proof Engineering Consultant (PEC) for Construction of distribution system and Command Area Development (CAD) system for 10671 Ha. Of CCA of Salandi Left Main Canal from RD30.540 Km to 45.570 Km through Under Ground Pipe line Irrigation System (Gravity Flow) of Anandapur Barrage Project in Balasore district of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key basis including operation and maintenance of the commissioned project complete in all respect.
2. Period of completion : 18 (Eighteen) Calendar months
3. Period of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal : From 10.00 AM of 06.04.2023 to 25.04.2023 up to 5.00 PM
4. Last Date / Time for Receipt of Bid : 25.04.2023 up to 5.00 PM.
5. Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid : 26.04.2023 at 11.30 AM.
6. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Anandpur Barrage Project ,Salapada
7. Further details can be seen from E-Procurment Portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
Chief Construction Engineer,
Anandpur Barrage Project, Salapada
A-01: OIPR-32180/11/0001/2324

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited
(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
An ISO 9001:2015 Company, A Mini Ratna & Schedule 'A' PSU
CIN No. L40101HP1988GOI008409
CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN A GROWING ORGANISATION
Advt. No. 110/2023 Closing Date: 28.04.2023 (For online application)
SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule – 'A' CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh. Beginning with a single project and single state operation, the company has a total portfolio of approximately 47000 MW and commissioned seven projects totalling 2091.5 MW of installed capacity which includes company's largest 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station.
SJVN invites applications from professionals having experience in Hydro/Solar/Wind Power Generation. The engagement shall be purely temporary & on contract basis for an initial period of 3 years. The contract period may further be extended on yearly basis for 2 more years depending upon the work requirement and performance of the individual. The engagement will not entitle him/her to claim for any regular employment in SJVN or any relaxation in case of any requirement for any post in SJVN.
QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, TENTATIVE NUMBER OF POSTS AND EXPERIENCE & AGE REQUIREMENTS

Sr. No.	Designation	Tentative No. of Posts	Qualification Requirement	Minimum post qualification relevant executive Experience	Upper Age Limit
1.	Field Engineer (Electrical)	12	Full time regular Degree in Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering from a recognized University / Institute of India.	14 years of post-qualification executive experience in Solar Power-1 Post	45 years
				10 years of post-qualification executive experience in Solar Power-4 Posts	36 years
				6 years of post-qualification executive experience in Solar Power-4 Posts / in Wind Power- 3 Posts	35 years
2.	Field Engineer (Mechanical)	14	Full time regular Degree in Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University / Institute of India.	14 years of post-qualification executive experience in Solar Power-2 Posts	45 years
				10 years of post-qualification executive experience in Solar Power-5 Posts	36 years
				6 years of post-qualification executive experience in Solar Power-4 Posts / in Wind Power- 3 Posts	35 years
3.	Field Engineer (Civil)	24	Full time regular Degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University / Institute of India	14 years of post-qualification executive experience in Hydro Power-8 Posts	45 years
				10 years of post-qualification executive experience in Hydro Power-8 Posts	36 years
				6 years of post-qualification executive experience in Hydro Power-8 Posts	35 years

Note: i) Numbers of posts shown above are tentative and can be changed at the absolute discretion of management as per requirement.

Important dates		
1	Commencement of Online Registration for submitting applications	07.04. 2023
2	Closing date for submitting applications through website	28.04. 2023
3	Last date for sending application print out along with Payment receipt and certificates	19.05.2023

SHARED VISION: 5000 MW by2023, 25000 MW by 2030 and 50000 MW by 2040

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 45 / 2022-23
email : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.1513, dt.31.03.2023

1. No. of the work	:- 04 number Building Works.
2. Estimated cost	:- Rs.341.72 Lakhs to Rs.354.20 Lakhs
3. Class of Contractor	:- "A" Class
4. Period of completion	:- 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.00 Hours of 15.04.2023 to 16.00 Hours of 01.05.2023.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 01.05.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 02.05.2023
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-8: OIPR-34033/11/0001/2324

INBRIEF

Farmers in Haryana try to garner support for Delhi rally

The workers and farmer union leaders in Haryana have held meetings in over 400 villages and towns over the past two weeks, reaching out to thousands of people to garner support for the "Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally", in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on Wednesday. One of the aims of the rally was to present a political alternative to the current regime, in terms of pro-poor policies, said a union leader.

Himachal to bring legislation to protect 'Children of State'

The Himachal Pradesh has decided to introduce the Himachal Pradesh Sukh Ashraya (Care, Protection and Self Reliance of Children) Bill, 2023 to provide appropriate care, protection, development, and self-reliance to orphans, semi-orphans, and specially-abled children in need. "These children will be given the status of Children of the State," said an official statement.

Medical body issues guidelines for conduct of students and teachers

The document issued by National Medical Council has explained the code of conduct for teachers and students while studying/working, relationship between teachers and students, expectations and their collective responsibilities

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Indian regulatory body for medical education and medical professionals, the National Medical Council, has for the first time issued a set of guidelines specifying professional responsibilities of medical students, teachers and institutions.

The 25-page document has explained the code of conduct for teachers and students while studying/working, relationship between a teacher and a student, expectations from the two (personal attributes and conduct) and their collective responsibility to the community.

"Sexual orientation, gender and socio-economic class should not be the base for any discrimination," the guidelines said.

It stated that for students, the intention behind these guidelines was to make them understand the grave responsibilities of their chosen profession.

For teachers, the guidelines were not to penalise or point a finger, but to remind them of their professional role in the life of a student and nation, said the document.

Student roles

Speaking exclusively to *The Hindu*, Yogender Malik, member, Ethics and Medical Registration Board, NMC, said: "We have been getting complaints and coming across cases that were hampering the holistic growth of medical students. This document will serve as the guide to medical colleges across India. It would be prudent that medical colleges use these guidelines to train

Students are advised to work towards maintaining public trust in the health system, the document says. L.. BALACHANDAR

teachers."

Among various listed responsibilities of a student, the NMC said that he or she was expected to be diligent about their study and research, be responsible for their personal growth and stay away from substance abuse, while seeking help in case of addiction.

It said that they should dress modestly, approach appropriate authorities for grievance redressal and seek professional help in case they felt overwhelmed.

Students were also advised to work towards ensuring an ethical doctor-patient relationship and maintain public trust in the health system.

They were warned about the possible professional hazards associated with the indiscriminate use of social media.

Norms for teachers

The guidelines for teachers stated that education was a moral enterprise and teachers should ensure that students were competent, caring and empathetic and ethical in their practice.

It also noted that teachers were role models and they should also follow boundaries with their students, even during interactions on social media.

Medical institutions have been told not to give false information during inspections and accreditation processes, pressure teachers to give false information and apply pressure on teachers to show preference to individual candidates.

India seeks information from USFDA on eye-drops

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Highlighting the absence of an alert or communication to India from the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) on their concern that a drug-resistant bacteria strain allegedly linked to eye-drops imported from India could have gained a foothold in U.S., the DCGI has written to the USFDA seeking details about its case, sources in the Health Ministry said.

The U.S.'s public health bodies raised an alarm after the USFDA said the manufacturer of the EzriCare eye drops was recalling 50,000 tubes from the American market following reports of contamination.

The source further said that the manufacturer has been instructed to stop the production until the investigation is completed.

More women judges at districts courts than in High Courts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand High Courts have no women judges

There are more women judges at the district court level than at the High Court level, with 35% of the total number of judges at the district court level and only 13% of judges in the High Courts across the country being women, the India Justice Report (IJR), 2022 has revealed.

While the share of women judges remains uneven across the States, Goa, with 70%, has the highest percentage of women judges at subordinate courts, followed by Meghalaya and Nagaland at 63% each.

The IJR stated that the representation of women judges is steadily rising in subordinate courts, but in the High Courts, the share of women judges remains low.

Among the High Courts, Sikkim, with a total strength of just three judges, has the highest national average at 33.3% of women judges. Meanwhile, Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand continued to have no women judges in their High Courts, the IJR said. Though caste-based reservations vary from State to State, the IJR data revealed that at the district court level, no State or Union Territory "could fully meet all its Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes quotas".

"State-wise data on caste diversity in High Courts remains unavailable," said the report which is published using the latest available government figures.

However, the IJR said that a Department of Justice Report to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice is reported to have stated that "from 2018 to December 2022, a total of 537 judges were appointed to the High Courts, of whom 1.3% were ST, 2.8% SC, 11% were from OBC category and 2.6% were from minority communities".

Vacancies of judges remain high, cases pile up: India Justice Report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian courts are jammed with cases and are seeing pendency increase by the day. At the same time, they are also functioning with fewer judges than the sanctioned number, the India Justice Report (IJR), 2022 said.

As of December 2022, against a sanctioned strength of 1,108 judges, the High Courts were functioning with only 778 judges. The subordinate courts were found functioning with 19,288 judges against a sanctioned strength of 24,631 judges.

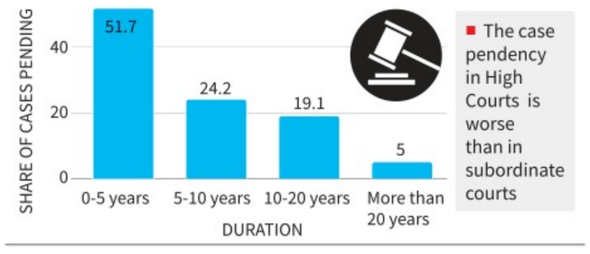
Rising pendency

Correspondingly, the number of cases pending per judge is rising in most States over the past five years, while the sanctioned strength has remained more or less the same.

"At High Court level, Uttar Pradesh has the highest average pendency; cases remain pending for an average of 11.34 years, and in West Bengal for 9.9 years. The lowest average High Court pendency is in Tripura (1 year), Sikkim (1.9 years) and Meghalaya (2.1 years)," the report said.

Piling up

The chart shows the share of cases pending in High Courts across various years. The share of cases pending for more than five years, across 25 High Courts in the country was 48.3%.



The number of cases a judge has to deal with has steadily increased. Between 2018 and 2022, the caseload per judge increased in 22 States and Union Territories, the report said.

The case clearance rate (CCR), or the number of cases disposed of in a year measured against the number filed in that year, is a common metric used to determine the rate at which cases are disposed of. A CCR of more than 100% indicates that the number of pending cases is reducing. The report found that the High Courts are clearing more cases annually than the subordinate courts. Between 2018-19 and 2022, the national average improved by six percentage points (88.5% to 94.6%) in High Courts, but declined by 3.6 points in lower courts (93% to 89.4%), IJR said.

At the same period, Tripura is the only State where the CCR in district courts remained above 100%, with the exception of 2020 – the year of the pandemic.

"In 2018-19 only four High Courts had a CCR of 100% or more. In 2022, this more than doubled to 12 High Courts. The High Courts of Kerala and Odisha have higher case clearance rates – 156% and 131% respectively – while the High Courts of Rajasthan (65%) and Bombay (72%) have the lowest case clearance rates," the IJR said.

Nationally, the number of court halls appears sufficient for the number of actual judges, the IJR said. However, it added that space will become a problem if all the sanctioned posts are filled.

In August 2022, there were 21,014 court halls for the 24,631 judges' posts sanctioned at the time – a shortfall of 14.7%, the report said.

"In Delhi, West Bengal, and Uttarakhand, there were no court halls for the 86, 82, and 35 serving judges, respectively," it added.

"If every State appointed each of its sanctioned judges, only four States and four Union Territories would have enough court halls. In 11 States/Union Territories, there would be a shortfall of more than 25%," the report said.

The India Justice Report is a collaborative effort undertaken in partnership with DAKSH, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Common Cause, Centre for Social Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and TISS-Prayas.

Hitting the streets: Doctors taking out a protest rally against Rajasthan's Right to Health Bill in Jaipur on Tuesday. PTI

Doctors in Rajasthan call off protest against Health Bill

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

After two weeks of protest against the Right to Health Bill, private doctors in Rajasthan on Tuesday called off their agitation after reaching an agreement with the State government on the applicability of the legislation. The Private Hospitals & Nursing Homes Association announced that all hospitals across the State will start functioning from Wednesday morning.

Principal Secretary (Medical Education) T. Ravikanth and representatives of agitating doctors arrived at a consensus that the private hospitals that have not got concessions or taken land and building at subsidised rates from the State government will be kept out of the purview of the Act. The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding comprising eight points.

Ensuring treatment

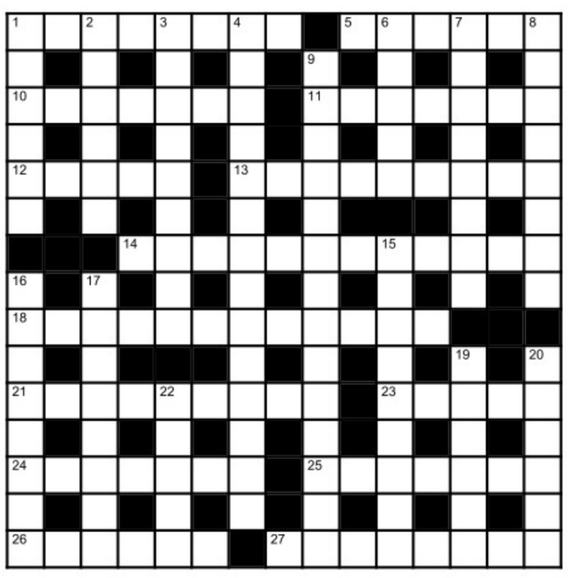
The Right to Health Bill, passed in the Assembly on March 21, gives every resident of Rajasthan the right to emergency treatment care without prepayment of requisite fees or charges to any health institution. Though Rajasthan became the first State to legislate the right to health, private hospitals were apprehensive of the government's interference in their functioning after the enforcement of the law.

TH CROSSWORD + 13831

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Calm inside, forces deployed outside (8)
5 A religious double crosser — second to go I see (6)
10 Phantom, about time he is brought in (7)
11 Flowering plant — part of the plant not with Britain, with America (7)
12 Not daytime number — starting off by 90 degrees (5)
13 Tales about fish hunter, they're big draws (9)
14 Can America impound a ship? Only when cranky (12)
18 Early South American lineage, is brilliant (12)
21 Turning blue, agree likely to cause lot of problems (9)
23 Burger without filling — one or two? (5)
24 Attempts to acquire financial banks — they don't amount to much (7)
25 Event on record, is on song (7)
26 "Paternal kinsman", finally written in stone (6)
27 Fun with English characters — disregarding national borders for Chinese geomancy (4,4)

Down

1 Concealed amidst the sugarcane fronds (6)
2 Border — last Australian in grief, sadly (6)
3 Problem with sore retina? Yes, inside (9)
4 Rochester and Tulsa set for the last course (9,5)
6 One's relatively dirty, one has to go (5)
7 Indian mallow used for ablution, perhaps (8)
8 Fool in summit, most offensive (8)
9 Minor actresses cast in movies he makes (6,8)
15 Honouring one from south — accepts new jewellery (9)
16 Act a bit, making a kind of bread (8)
17 In part of Mumbai pick a servant to work in the kitchen (8)
19 Going around a lake in my footwear (6)
20 Confine me, yet some of them raise a subject (6)
22 Distribute vote, billions gone! (5)

SUDOKU

			3					
	6			9		7		2
	3				8	5		
9	5				1			
4			9		3			7
			2				4	9
		6	1				7	
2		5		8			1	
					4			

No.SS5759 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	1	5	8	3	9	7	6
5	9	3	4	6	7	1	2	8
8	7	6	9	1	2	4	3	5
2	6	7	1	9	8	3	5	4
9	8	4	3	7	5	6	1	2
3	1	5	2	4	6	8	9	7
1	5	2	6	3	4	7	8	9
7	4	9	8	5	1	2	6	3
6	3	8	7	2	9	5	4	1

FAITH

Importance of surrender

The scriptures make a distinction between charity and expropriation. Charity refers to the owner of an object giving up his right to another person. Expropriation denotes celebrating the right of another person over an object with or without our knowledge. If a glass of madhu (wine) is mixed into a golden pot full of pure water, it becomes contaminated. Similarly, our soul will become tainted if we develop ahankara (the concept of I).

The Mahabharata in the Udyoga Parva (Chapter 41, Sloka 37) says that a person who thinks independently by himself, forgetting he is a subject of God, is deemed to have stolen the soul.

The Manusmruti (Chapter 6, Verse 92) says that the Supreme Being, who rules the world from the Suryamandala, resides in the heart of every person. Whatever good deeds we undertake should be performed with the resolve that they are done for the sake of pleasing God. People who don't act against the wishes of the Supreme Being need not be searching by visiting holy places nor even taking a holy dip in the river Ganges.

The best and easiest way of restoring our soul back to God is by surrender with the help of an Acharya. Swami Vedantha Desika, in his work Devanayaka Panchasath, makes a fervent plea on our behalf to Lord Devanatha of Thiruvahindrapuram, to not refuse but take our soul back, Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar Swamy said in a discourse.

"Mam ekam saranam vraja (surrender unto Me)," Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita.

STOCKHOLM

Swedish court overturns police ban on Koran burning protests

REUTERS

A Swedish court on Tuesday overturned a police move to ban two Koran burning protests, as five suspected Islamists were arrested for plotting a "terrorist act" over a similar demonstration. The burning of Islam's holy book outside Turkey's embassy in Stockholm in January had angered the Muslim world. AFP

BEIJING

Philippine-U.S. deal is a threat to regional peace, warns China

REUTERS

China warned on Tuesday that Washington was "endangering regional peace" in a new deal with the Philippines that will see four additional bases be used by U.S. troops. "Out of self-interest, the U.S. maintains a zero-sum mentality and continues to strengthen its military deployment in the region," a Chinese official said. AFP

BEIRUT

U.S. strike in Syria kills planner of IS Europe attacks, says military

AFP

The U.S. military said on Tuesday that it had carried out a strike in Syria killing a senior Islamic State group official responsible for planning attacks in Europe. The strike in northwestern Syria on Monday killed senior IS leader Khalid Aydd Ahmad al-Jabouri, the U.S. Central Command said. AFP

UNITED NATIONS

Taliban 'order' bans women staff in Afghanistan from working, says UN

AFP

The Taliban have issued an order to ban Afghan women employees of the United Nations staff from working throughout Afghanistan, a UN spokesman said on Tuesday, a restriction the UN had so far been exempt from. "We were told from various conduits that this applies to the whole country," a UN spokesman said. AFP

Finland joins NATO bloc; Russia says move will escalate Ukraine conflict

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg welcomes Finland to the alliance's ranks; he says Russian President Vladimir Putin, who cited the NATO expansion as one justification for the Ukraine invasion, is getting 'exactly the opposite'

Reuters
HELSINKI/BRUSSELS

Finland formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on Tuesday, roughly doubling the length of the border that the alliance shares with Russia and bolsters its eastern flank as the war in Ukraine grinds on with no resolution in sight.

Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto completed the accession process by handing over an official document to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Expanding tribe: (from left) Pekka Haavisto, Jens Stoltenberg and Antony Blinken during in Brussels on Tuesday. AFP

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, welcoming Finland to its ranks, noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin had cited opposing NATO expansion as one justification for his invasion. "He is getting exactly the opposite...Finland today, and soon also Sweden will become a full fledged member of the alliance."

The Kremlin said Russia would be forced to take "counter-measures" to Finland's accession. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the move raised the prospect of the conflict in Ukraine escalating further.

Russia said it would strengthen its military capacity in its western and northwestern regions in response to the move.

The event marks the end of an era of military non-alignment for Finland that began after the country repelled an invasion attempt by the Soviet Union during the Second World War and opted to try to maintain friendly relations with Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the NATO expansion was an "encroachment on our security and on Russia's national interests". Moscow would watch closely for any NATO military deployments in Finland, he said.

Mr. Blinken said: "I'm tempted to say this is maybe the one thing we can thank Mr Putin for. Because he once again here precipitated something he claims to want to prevent."

Trump turns himself in to face criminal charges

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Donald Trump turned himself in on Tuesday for a historic New York court hearing held amid tight security and a global media frenzy, as the Republican billionaire becomes the first U.S. President in history to face criminal charges.

In a spectacle playing out on live television – with rival protesters rallying outside – the hearing marks a watershed moment for the U.S. criminal and political system, with the potential to upend the 2024 White House race in which Mr. Trump is currently the leading Republican nominee.

Mr. Trump is expected to plead not guilty to a host of charges related to hush money paid to a porn star ahead of the 2016 election. "Seems so SURREAL -- WOW, they are going to ARREST ME," Mr. Trump posted on his Truth Social app.

Legal battle: Former U.S. President Donald Trump arrives at the Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City on Tuesday. REUTERS

Mr. Trump waved at supporters before walking into the complex under U.S. Secret Service protection. He was not subjected to a "perp walk" – in which a defendant is escorted in handcuffs past media cameras.

Pak. Supreme Court orders polls for Punjab province on May 14

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

It declares the election commission's decision delaying Punjab polls by five months null and void

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday termed as "unconstitutional" the Election Commission's decision to postpone polls in the Punjab province till October 8, in a major blow to the federal government that has been trying to delay the provincial election citing security issues and the economic crisis.

The apex court also fixed May 14 as the date for polls in the politically crucial Punjab province, in a boost to ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

On March 22, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) delayed Assembly polls in the politically crucial Punjab province by more than five months, citing the deteriorating security situation in the cash-starved country, a move criticised by Mr. Khan's PTI.

The verdict on the issue was delivered by a three-member Bench – headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Ijazul Ahsan.

The top court declared the ECP decision as "illegal" and "unconstitutional".

Australia bans TikTok on all govt. devices citing security

Associated Press
CANBERRA

Australia has become the last of the "Five Eyes" security partners to ban the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok from its federal government's devices.

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said in a statement on Tuesday that based on intelligence and security agencies' advice, the ban would come into effect "as soon as practicable."

The Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partners – the U.S., Canada, Britain and New Zealand – have taken similar steps. TikTok objected to the decision.

Ex-PM Ardern to combat online threats in new role

Associated Press
WELLINGTON

Jacinda Ardern, who stepped down as New Zealand's Prime Minister in January, will begin an unpaid role this month combating online extremism.

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins appointed Ms. Ardern as Special Envoy for the Christchurch Call. Mr. Hipkins said Ms. Ardern would begin the part-time role this month and that she'd declined to accept any pay.

She launched the Christchurch Call in 2019, two months after a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch.

International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur
Plot No.7, Sector 24, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur - 493661, (C.G.), India

E- TENDER NOTICE

The following tenders are invited on behalf of Director IIIT-NR from interested bidders:

a. Supply of Gym Equipments
b. Supply of Red Hat Linux
c. Supply of Zed Board
d. Rate contract for library Books
e. Manpower provision for Electrical system
f. Manpower provision for Gardening
g. Distribution switch AMC
h. Dispensary Services

Bidders can download a complete set of bidding documents from IIIT-NR website **https://www.iiitnr.ac.in** from **03rd April 2023** onwards. Bidders need to submit the bids with all the required respective bid documents given at **https://www.iiitnr.ac.in**

Purchase Officer

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for supply of "90,000 kgs of Cow Ghee with Agmark Special Grade through TINS (each tin 15 kgs net) through e-tenders" from the national wide dairies for a period of 06 months to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the website http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact Phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No. 0877-2264554

ROC No. PR4/13953/Adv. No.03/ PRO/2023, Dated: 04.04.2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-22(A)/22-23 **Dt:03.04.2023**

"Painting of HIL-01 bldg @ SMPC Unit-02" (T/C-22-110, Est. cost ₹15.72 Lakhs); **"Water proofing treatment works @ SMPC Unit-02"** (T/C-22-111, Est. cost ₹14.45 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 18.04.2023**. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

डी एन ए फ़िंगरप्रिंटिंग एवं निदान केन्द्र
(जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का स्वायत्त संस्थान)
इनर रिंग रोड, उप्पल, हैदराबाद - 500039, तेलंगाना, भारत **दूरभाष : +91-40-2721 6014 / 6091,**
फैक्स : +91-40-2721 6006, वेबसाईट: http://www.cdfd.org.in

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
(An autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, Telangana, India **Tel:** +91-40-2721 6014 / 6091, **Fax:** +91-40-2721 6006,
Website: http://www.cdfd.org.in

ADMISSION FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM - II - 2023 (RSP - II - 2023)

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its Research Scholars Program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as Research Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph.D. program of Manipal Academy of Higher Education or Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible, a candidate must have:

1. A Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture from a recognized University / Institute OR MBBS. **Candidates who have appeared for their final semester examination, but are awaiting results, are also eligible to apply.**
2. Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / JEST / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.
   Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme [which is only for a period of two years] OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - category - II list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are NOT eligible.

Selection Procedure

Admission to the CDFD - Research Scholars program will be based on an **interview via video conference** scheduled to be held in end of May / beginning of June 2023 (RSP-II-2023). The candidates should be available for more than one round of interviews, spread over a week, if needed.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for RSP - II - 2023 by applying in the prescribed application form ***online.*** The link for the application form is available at **cdfd.org.in/rsp/**

The Online facility of application will be closed on **April 27, 2023.**

Director, CDFD reserves the right to accept / reject any or all applications.

Visit the CDFD website http://www.cdfd.org.in for detailed advertisement / General terms and conditions.

THE HINDU GROUP

FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

The Amritpal Singh mystery

Who is Amritpal Singh? Frontline got one of the last interviews with the radical preacher and separatist before he went on the run. While the interview throws light on his meteoric rise, writers such as Manjit Singh, Amandeep Sandhu, and Saba Naqvi speak of what makes Punjab vulnerable to the likes of an Amritpal.

Rahul Gandhi vs the BJP. The battle for power between the Congress and the BJP gets uglier with each passing day. Where does this leave the so-called third bloc?

Mallika Sarabhai. The new Chancellor of the famed Kerala Kalamandalam outlines her plans to repurpose, refocus, and repackage the 93-year-old institute.

Now on stands
April 7, 2023

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INBRIEF

Isuzu Motors India appoints Rajesh Mittal as president

To give a boost to its Indian operations, Isuzu Motors India has appointed Rajesh Mittal as the first Indian president of the company. Mr. Mittal succeeds Wataru Nakano, who will assume charge as head of Isuzu's Vietnam operations from April 2023, the Japanese utility vehicle manufacturer said in a statement. Yasuhito Kondo, who was in charge of the Regional Management Office at Isuzu Japan, will take over as deputy president in place of Mr. Mittal.

ExxonMobil to invest ₹900 cr. in building India lube plant

ExxonMobil said it will invest almost ₹900 crore ($110 million) to build a lubricant plant at Raigad in Maharashtra. The facility would have the capacity to potentially make 1,59,000 kilolitre of finished lubricants annually to meet the growing domestic demand from industrial sectors, the firm said. The plant would source a larger part of the base stocks, additives, and all packaging would be done locally. It is expected to create almost 1,200 jobs during the construction phase.

Amitabh Kant to head panel on stalled housing projects

The Centre has formed a committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to study stalled real estate projects and suggest ways to complete them. The 14-member panel was set up via an order issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on March 31. It would submit its report within six months from the date of the first meeting. The panel would deliberate on legacy issues and recommend ways to hand over possession to buyers in a time-bound manner.

Goods exports likely hit a nine-month high in March

Commerce Minister pegs initial estimate of FY23 goods exports at about $447 billion, imputing outbound shipments likely exceeded $40 billion last month; Goyal says curbs crimped exports

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports may have hit a 9-month high to cross $40 billion in March, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal indicated on Tuesday, while pegging initial estimates of goods exports in 2022-23 at about $447 billion.

Total goods exports in the first 11 months of the fiscal year ended March 31 are currently estimated at $405.94 billion, 7.55% higher than the year-earlier period. Therefore, barring any upward revisions to the earlier months' export numbers, the value of last month's exports imputed from the $447 billion figure is about $41 billion, about 6.7% lower than March 2022's $44.6 billion.

The last time goods exports were higher than March's implied figure was in June, when shipments totaled $42.4 billion. Exports averaged $35.6 billion over the eight months through February 2023.

Asserting that restrictions on several exports such as iron ore, wheat, rice and petroleum had hurt goods exports by at least $20 billion, Mr. Goyal said: "Therefore, on the goods side, our growth will be about 6%. It's not as if goods exports have not grown, it has grown from $422 billion to $447 billion at last count. Final numbers are still awaited."

March bounce

Goods exports may have crossed $40 bn last month, the highest figure since June, Goyal's initial estimate for FY23 indicates

- Barring upward revisions, March's imputed figure pegged at about $41 bn, 6.7% lower than March 2022's $44.6 bn
- Exports were $42.4 bn in June 2022; averaged $35.6 bn over next 8 months
- Curbs on export of iron ore, wheat, rice, petroleum hurt total by at least $20 bn: Goyal

ADB cuts India FY24 growth to 6.4%, flags slowing investment

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has slashed its growth projection for India for 2023-24 sharply, from 7.2% estimated earlier, to 6.4%, attributing the cut to the global economic slowdown, tight monetary conditions, and persistently elevated oil prices.

While domestic consumption demand is likely to stay healthy, private investment growth is likely to be lower this year due to high lending rates and moderating optimism on business conditions, the Bank cautioned.

The Bank has pegged India's real GDP growth in 2022-23 at 6.8% in its Asian Development Outlook released on Tuesday, and said growth will inch back up to 6.7% in 2024-25.

The ongoing recovery in China and healthy domestic demand in India will be the main growth support pillars for the entire region through this year and next, the ADB noted.

India's rising clout

Between 2015 and 2019, India's contribution to GDP growth in Developing Asia was 22% while China's contribution was 53%, ADB estimates suggest.

"The People's Republic of China still accounts for about half of the region's growth, but its contribution will decline," it said.

India's contribution to developing Asia's growth is expected to rise to 27% by 2024-25 from an estimated 25% in 2023-24, with China's impact slipping from 51% this year to 46% by 2024-25.

"This rapid growth [for India] reflects healthy domestic consumption, which will be further boosted by the tax cuts and exemptions in February's Union Budget. Because of the more limited role of exports in the economy, India will be less affected by the slowdown in advanced economies," the lender predicted.

"South Asia will remain the best-performing subregion this year, driven by robust growth in India which should register high growth both this year and next year," Abdul Abiad, director of ADB's macroeconomic research division said at a briefing.

While private investment is expected to falter this year, public consumption this year is "likely to grow only slowly, as central government expenditure shifts toward investment," ADB said.

"Improving States' financial management is necessary to increase needed public investment," it stressed, adding that growth will be buoyed again in 2024-25 "by private consumption and investment as the global economy improves".

Windfall taxes on fuels virtually scrapped, for now

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With global oil prices rising after OPEC+'s output cuts, experts believe the tax will be raised again soon

The government has temporarily scrapped the windfall tax on crude oil production by reducing the special additional excise duty (SAED) levied on oil producers since last July, from ₹3,500 per tonne to zero. But with global oil prices rebounding after the OPEC+ grouping announced production cuts, experts believe the tax will be raised again soon.

In its latest periodic review of the windfall levies, the Centre also halved the levy on diesel exports to ₹0.50, effective April 4. The same tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel and petrol had already been slashed to nil earlier.

"There was a moderation in crude oil prices closer to the last revision in SAED on March 21," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, senior vice president at rating firm ICRA, explaining the rationale for the latest duty reductions.

"However, crude oil prices have jumped since the OPEC+ announcement of additional production cuts of 1.16 million barrels per day," Mr. Majumdar noted. "Hence, the SAED can be expected to increase in the next revision if the crude prices remain elevated," he added.

ICRA estimates that the government's collection from the SAED imposed on the production of crude oil and the export of petroleum products from July 1, 2022, was about ₹40,000 crore in the financial year that ended on March 31.

BoB said to stop settling above-cap Russia oil bills

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has stopped clearing payments for Russian oil sold above the price cap set by the West from this month, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, a move that could expedite transition to a rupee trade mechanism.

Some Indian refiners were paying in the UAE dirham for Russian low-sulphur crude priced above the $60-a-barrel cap using BoB, the sources said.

PhonePe forays into hyperlocal commerce

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Walmart-backed PhonePe has forayed into hyperlocal commerce with its shopping app Pincode that is built on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) protocol.

The Pincode app is currently live in Bengaluru and would be unveiled in other cities soon. The app will pilot in Bengaluru with grocery, food, pharma, electronics and home décor, the company said.

TVSM arm to buy 25% in Germany's Killwatt

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Killwatt makes products and components for e-two-wheelers and three-wheelers

TVS Motor Company's Singapore arm has agreed to acquire 25% stake in Germany-based e-mobility firm Killwatt GmbH for cash consideration.

TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte Ltd. would acquire a 25% stake, or 8,500 shares, for €235.29 apiece. The deal is expected to be completed by April 24, 2023.

In a filing, TVS Motor said the acquisition is in line with its larger vision of becoming a leading player in the e-personal mobility space. Besides, the transaction complements its other recent acquisitions.

Killwatt, a privately held firm, is into development, design, production, sale and distribution of high-tech products and components in the field of electric two- and three-wheelers. During 2022, it was at a pre-revenue stage.

Renaatus wins $29-mn project to upgrade Gan airport

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Renaatus Projects, a construction firm and construction material manufacturer, has won a $29-million contract from the Government of Maldives to upgrade the infrastructure at Gan International Airport.

Renaatus chairman Selvasundaram Poosappan said the project is funded by EXIM Bank of India, and includes an air traffic control tower and fire station.

ONDC will help democratise e-commerce, says Nilekani

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is the next big thing and it will lead to democratisation of e-commerce in India, said Nandan Nilekani, the founding chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

Speaking at an event on Tuesday, he said, "We are going to democratise e-commerce in India and e-comm won't be limited to few players. Everyone including kirana stores, grocery retailers, and restaurants should participate in the digital marketplace on an open platform."

Nandan Nilekani

What the country required was an architecture that all including millions of small vendors would be able to participate in, Mr. Nilekani emphasised.

On the pace of embracing digitisation, Mr. Nilekani said, the country has achieved financial inclusion in 7 to 8 years instead of taking 45 years, and that this was possible because it used Aadhar KYC to open bank accounts.

The technocrat also said since independence the country had some eight million PoS (point of sale) machines. "But in the last three years, we've seen 50 million QR codes being deployed. This is an example of how interoperability can turbocharge payment in India," he summed up.

Auto retail sales saw double-digit growth in FY23

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Auto retail sales grew in double-digits in the country last fiscal, driven by a record offtake of 36 lakh passenger vehicles, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations said.

Total retail sales rose to 2,21,50,222 units last fiscal, up 21% from 1,83,27,326 units in FY22. The passenger vehicle registrations rose by 23% to 36,20,039 units, as against 29,42,273 units in 2021-22.

Sport

Salim Durani and the vulnerabilities of genius

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

My enduring memory of Salim Durani is not the sixes he hit (although I saw some of them) or the wickets he claimed (I saw many of those too), but the manner of his arrival at a press conference in New Delhi. We were just a handful of journalists and we had had to wait for a bit.

Durani walked into the room, waving smiling, looking around as if acknowledging the cheers of a crowd in a stadium. It was dramatic, and it suggested he knew love and respect were his due. He knew of the impact he made on any group from six to sixty thousand. This was beyond mere self-confidence or entitlement. This was a sharing of charisma, a doubling of joy. I have never seen a sportsman burst into a room with such goodwill.

So it was with a heavy heart that one read about his last days, spent alone and sans the glamour, the public love, the unstinted admiration of those who had come into contact with him however briefly. But Durani's was a life well lived. He didn't understand moderation either in his cricket or his life, and occasionally paid for it.

Yet few cricketers (and he played just 29 Tests as India played 65) inspired such an outpouring of grief from such a wide range of personalities in different fields. From politicians (of different hues) to artistes they became fan boys, united by their admiration for the man who played and lived like no other.

Durani. FILE PHOTO: N. SRIDHARAN

Perhaps in that admiration lay the key to Durani (he signed his autographs with a single 'r', although there are two in most references). It wasn't the cricket alone, although that was an important element. He played key roles in two series wins, against England at home in 1961-62, and the inaugural win in the West Indies a decade later. Durani had, above all, the kind of personality others aspired to – talented, handsome, confident, uncontainable, patently life-affirming, with the ability to do things others couldn't and with little apparent effort. Most males would like to believe that they have something of Durani within them, only waiting to be teased out!

If he had greater discipline, he might have scored more runs, taken more wickets. But he wouldn't have been Durani. He wouldn't have virtually grabbed the ball from his skipper Ajit Wadekar and proceeded to dismiss Garry Sobers and Clive Lloyd en route to a famous win. He wouldn't have hit 15 sixes in 29 Tests at a time when Indian batsmen believed playing in the air was a mortal sin (Farokh Engineer, often called 'swashbuckling', had two sixes in 46 Tests).

The great off-spinner Erapalli Prasanna once sent me a picture of the Fabulous Four – Bishan Bedi, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, Venkatraghavan and himself – with a note saying, "Genius in the middle". The genius was Salim Durani. And he lived with all the vulnerabilities of genius – inconsistency, occasional flashes of ordinariness, self-doubt and 'unleadability'. Tiger Pataudi, who was his captain in 15 Tests, often said he regretted never having been able to get the best out of Durani, although he made his only Test century in the West Indies after Pataudi had sent him in at No. 3, six places above the order from the first innings.

As a young boy in Bengaluru, I saw him mastermind Central Zone's triumph in the Duleep Trophy (in the days when the tournament meant something, and was just a rung below Test cricket). So certain were the authorities that West would beat Central in the semifinal that they prepared for a West vs. South final. But Durani helped beat both West (7/111 and 83) and South (9/87 and 83 n.o.). It was magical. Central Zone were thus put on the cricketing map.

Some of the most beloved cricketers to have played the game didn't get the honour because of their averages. Like the Australian Victor Trumper they brought something to the game that captured the imagination. Durani captured a nation's imagination, and that's an epitaph reserved only for the best.

Sanjita gets four-year ban for failing dope test

WEIGHTLIFTING

Pres Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sanjita. FILE PHOTO

Two-time Commonwealth Games weightlifting champion Sanjita Chanu has been handed a four-year ban by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test last year.

Sanjita had tested positive for an anabolic steroid – Drostanolone Metabolite – that features in the World Anti-doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list, during the in-competition testing at the National Games in Gujarat during September and October last year.

Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) president Sahdev Yadav confirmed the development. "Yes, she has been handed a four-year ban by NADA," he told *PTI*.

This a is a huge setback for Sanjita, who will be stripped of the National Games silver medal as a result of the positive test.

Sanjita could not be reached for her comment.

The Manipuri still has the option to appeal the decision. However, it is not sure if she will choose to do so.

MAIDEN SEASON

Shanaka replaces the injured Williamson in Titans squad

Gujarat Titans named Dasun Shanaka as a replacement for the injured Kane Williamson for IPL 2023. Shanaka, Sri Lanka's white-ball captain, is an explosive middle-order batter and also a seamer. Signed for his base price of ₹50 lakh, this will be Shanaka's maiden season in the IPL.

BIG BLOW

Setback for Knight Riders as Shreyas will miss IPL 2023

Shreyas Iyer will miss IPL 2023 and possibly the WTC final in June against Australia as he is set to undergo back surgery, according to BCCI sources. Shreyas, the skipper of KKR, is expected to be out of action for at least five months. That would mean that his participation in the 50-over World Cup could be touch and go.

RULED OUT

Royal Challengers to miss injured Patidar for the entire season

RCB batter Rajat Patidar has been ruled out of IPL 2023 owing to an Achilles Heel injury, the franchise announced on Tuesday. He was undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for an injury he had picked up pre-season. Patidar had scored 333 runs at an average of 55.5 and a strike-rate of 152.75 last season.

ASHES ASSIGNMENT

Nitin to be on-field umpire in Leeds and Manchester Tests

Nitin Menon, the only Indian in the ICC elite panel of umpires, will finally realise his "dream" when he officiates in the Ashes series between England and Australia in England in June-July. He will be the on-field umpire in the third and fourth Tests at Leeds and Manchester, and the TV umpire for the final Test at The Oval.

Sai Sudharsan stays cool, guides Titans past Capitals

The left-hander gets it right after most batters fail to cash in on batting-friendly conditions; Shami and Rashid take three wickets each while Joseph dismisses Warner and Rossouw off successive deliveries to break the back of the Delhi side

IPL-16

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

A batting-friendly pitch surrounded by square boundaries of 65 metres appeared a perfect stage for a run-fest. With the top-order batters from both sides promising a great deal, the bowlers obviously were in an unenviable position.

However, if the Delhi Capitals-Gujarat Titans clash stayed alive as a contest longer than expected, it was only because the batters from both teams got carried away.

Changing the script

Put in, Capitals were let down by its batters. Later, chasing 163, Titans traded the creamy layer of their batting for some quick runs. That was when Capitals' hopes got rekindled, but B. Sai Sudharsan changed the script to take Titans to a six-wicket victory. This was Hardik's men's 10th successful finish in 11 chases.

Titans made the first surge after the Tamil Nadu duo of Sai Sudharsan and Vijay Shankar – separated by 11 years – joined hands at 54 for three at the end of the PowerPlay.

This left-right combination held its nerve and gradually seized the advantage. The duo minimised risk without compromising on flamboyance and sense of purpose during their 53-run stand.

Shifting gears: Sai Sudharsan cranked up a few big shots after anchoring the innings initially. R.V. MOORTHY

Sai Sudharsan, whose breathtaking 69-metre scoop-six off a 144-kmph delivery from Anrich Nortje proved the shot of the evening, was a class act.

His stroke selection and execution stood out as he soaked in the pressure to help his team cross the finish line and emerge as the Player-of-the-Match.

More significantly, for Titans, this 21-year-old left-hander is gaining confidence with each outing as he continues to reinforce his claim for a permanent spot in the playing XI.

After Vijay Shankar exited following a 23-ball 29, the stylish Sai Sudharsan and fellow left-hander David Miller scored the 56 runs needed for Titans' second win coinciding with Capitals' second loss.

In the final analysis, Sai Sudharsan was the difference between the teams.

Earlier, for Capitals, David Warner and Sarfaraz Khan settled down without lasting long. Later Axar Patel provided some flourish but the outing proved a rough one for the host.

Prithvi Shaw fell early to a short-pitched delivery from Mohammed Shami. In addition, the way Alzarri Joseph removed Warner and Rilee Rossouw off successive deliveries proved a rude reminder of what Mark Wood did to the team in its campaign-opener.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

David Warner b Joseph 37 *(32b, 7x4)*, Prithvi Shaw c Joseph b Shami 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Mitchell Marsh b Shami 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Little b Rashid 30 *(34b, 2x4)*, Rilee Rossouw c Tewatia b Joseph 0 *(1b)*, Abishek Porel b Rashid 20 *(11b, 2x6)*, Axar Patel c Miller b Shami 36 *(22b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Aman Khan c Hardik b Rashid 8 *(8b, 1x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Anrich Nortje (not out) 4 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-4, w-11): 15; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-29 (Shaw, 2.4 overs), 2-37 (Marsh, 4.2), 3-67 (Warner, 8.2), 4-67 (Rossouw, 8.3), 5-101 (Porel, 12.2), 6-130 (Sarfaraz, 16.2), 7-148 (Aman, 18.4), 8-158 (Axar, 19.4).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-41-3, Little 4-0-27-0, Hardik 3-0-18-0, Joseph 4-0-29-2, Dayal 1-0-12-0, Rashid 4-0-31-3.

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha b Nortje 14 *(7b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill b Nortje 14 *(13b, 3x4)*, B. Sai Sudharsan (not out) 62 *(48b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Porel b Khaleel 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Vijay Shankar **(Impact Player in place of Little)** lbw b Marsh 29 *(23b, 3x4)*, David Miller (not out) 31 *(16b, 2x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-4, nb-2): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 18.1 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Saha, 2.1), 2-36 (Gill, 4.1), 3-54 (Hardik, 5.6), 4-107 (Vijay Shankar, 13.2).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Khaleel **(Impact Player in place of Sarfaraz)** 4-0-38-1, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-42-0, Nortje 4-0-39-2, Marsh 3.1-0-24-1, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-18-0.

Toss: Titans.
PoM: Sai Sudharsan.
Titans won by six wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Next assignment

DC: April 8 **vs. RR**
Guwahati, 3.30 p.m.

GT: April 9 **vs. KKR**
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

At 41, Dhoni shows he still has fuel left in the tank

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' first home match in four years against Lucknow Super Giants on Monday was all about skipper M.S. Dhoni.

Much to the delight of the fans, the two sixes he hit in the final over of the CSK innings was the defining moment. The Super King's 12 runs also proved the winning margin.

In a storied career with numerous titles and records, Dhoni's second maximum took him to another milestone – he became the seventh batter to score 5,000 runs in the IPL.

Magic in the air: There's a buzz when Dhoni walks to the crease.

Special

Though there are four Indians for company in the elite club, Dhoni's record is special as he is the only middle- to lower-order batter in the list.

Among the other six – Virat Kohli, Shikhar Dhawan, David Warner, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina and A.B. de Villiers – only the South African has been employed as a floater in the line-up while the others have largely played in the top four.

Dhoni has mostly batted at No. 5 or below for a major part of his IPL career, walking in with just a few overs remaining. He has, however, scored at a healthy strike-rate of 136 while averaging nearly 40 (39.09).

Ever since his retirement from international cricket in 2020, he has had modest returns over the last three IPLs.

During this period, CSK's batting depth has also allowed the captain to relax as the team is not too much dependent on him.

At the same time, Dhoni has made his presence felt, producing moments of magic the way he did in Qualifier 1 against Delhi Capitals in 2021 (18, 6b, 3x4, 1x6) to seal the chase.

This season, Dhoni has looked fluent during his visits to the crease. In recent times, the 41-year-old has been troubled by raw pace and quality spin.

But the fact that he put enough wood against the likes of Josh Little and Mark Wood – who both can clock above 140 kph – showed there is enough left in the tank.

Dhoni's 5000 - a break-up

	M	Inns	Runs
Overall	236	208	5004
CSK	206	181	4430
RPS	30	27	574

BY OPPONENT

RCB	MI	DC
838 runs (31 inns)	746 (34)	647 (28)
PBKS	**KKR**	**RR**
642 (24)	551 (25)	521 (23)
SRH	**DEC***	**PWI**
488 (18)	281 (10)	135 (5)
GL	**LSG**	**KTK**	**GT**
83 (4)	28 (2)	23 (2)	21 (2)

*Deccan Chargers

Too many extra deliveries... they have to be ready to play under a new captain: Dhoni

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni sent a stern warning to his bowlers, saying they need to stop bowling no-balls and wides after the team's 12-run win over Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

The skipper also said the extra deliveries affect the over-rate and could even get him banned.

CSK was guilty of bowling 13 wides and three no-balls.

"We have to bowl maybe zero no-balls and fewer wides because we are bowling too many extra deliveries.

"Or else they will have to be ready to play under a new captain at some point. It will be my second warning, and I'll be off," Dhoni told the broadcaster after the match.

Talking straight: Dhoni has been vocal about the pacers being wayward. PTI

The former India captain also wanted the pacers to pull up their socks.

Pacers need to improve

"It's the fast bowling that needs to improve slightly, and they need to bowl according to the conditions.

"Even if it's on the flatter side, have fielders and try to bowl in the areas where you are pushing the batters to hit over the fielders.

"What is important is to keep an eye, when we are batting, on what the opposition bowlers are doing so that it gives you an idea of what can be done; 'what can be my plan according to the strength I have or the pace I have'," Dhoni added.

Royals high on confidence as they take on Kings; Guwahati gears up for IPL debut

Pranay Rajiv
GUWAHATI

Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings will look to further their winning starts as the teams take on each other at the former's first of two 'home away from home' IPL games at the Barsapara Stadium here on Wednesday.

Royals will be spurred on by the fact that they have won more games against Kings than any other side in the IPL (14 wins in 24 games) as Guwahati sets itself up to host its first IPL match.

The 2022 IPL finalist comes into the game high on confidence after pummelling Sunrisers Hyderabad by 72 runs in its opener. Royals were powered to a match-winning total of 203 by fifties from its openers Jos Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal, and skipper Sanju Samson.

In the bowling front, Trent Boult rocked Sunrisers with a double-wicket maiden in the first over before Yuzvendra Chahal wrapped up the win with a four-wicket haul.

Centre of attention: Riyan Parag, middle, playing in his home town, will look to prove his worth. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Meanwhile, Kings come on the back of a hard-fought win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a rain-curtailed game.

Kings' success on Wednesday will hinge heavily on whether they can restrict the power-packed batting line-up of Royals, which breached the 100-run mark inside eight overs in Hyderabad, with its openers recording a team-record 85 runs in the PowerPlay.

Led by new skipper Shikhar Dhawan, Kings will have their task cut out against a razor-sharp Royals' bowling, boosted by the addition of Jason Holder.

Kings will continue to be without English all-rounder Liam Livingstone and South African quick Kagiso Rabada.

Royals will, in all probability, retain its winning setup, with added focus on Riyan Parag, who will look to deliver in his hometown.

Today's match

RR vs. PBKS
Guwahati, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 24
RR 14 | PBKS 10

PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by **six wickets**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

INBRIEF

Ireland strikes back after Taijul's five-for

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed five for 58 for Bangladesh on Tuesday to help bowl out Ireland for 214, but two early strikes by the visitors left the one-off Dhaka Test in the balance. Harry Tector earlier top-scored with 50 for the visitors, who otherwise struggled to build partnerships after electing to bat first.

The scores: Ireland 214 in 77.3 overs (Harry Tector 50, Curtis Campher 34, Lorcan Tucker 37, Mark Adair 32, Taijul Islam 5/58) vs Bangladesh 34/2 in 10 overs. **Toss:** Ireland.

Kaviya's hat-trick powers Karnataka to third straight win

Kaviya Pakkirasamy scored a hat-trick as Karnataka recorded its third straight win, beating Bihar 8-0 in a Group Six match of the 27th Senior Women's National football championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium, Bengaluru, on Tuesday.

The results:
Manipur 3 (Moirangthem Mandakini Devi 15, Salam Rinaroy Devi 61, S. Lynda Kom 89) bt Assam 2 (Ningthoujam Devi 30, Yumkhaibam Hemalata Devi 36).
Karnataka 8 (Kaviya Pakkirasamy 27, 51, 58, Tara Anand 28, Maitreyi Palasamudram 42, Aruna Bag 45+3, Sonia Marak 44, 64) bt Bihar 0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 4.30 a.m.

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka: 2nd T20I, Prime Video, 6.30 a.m.

Bangladesh vs Ireland: Only Test, day 2, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

I take responsibilities as challenge: Chahar

It is not being a leader but just that I am more experienced than others, says the Chennai Super Kings speedster

Game for it: Chahar says he relishes the challenge he encounters in the death overs. SPORTZPICS/IPL

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings pace spearhead Deepak Chahar said he revels in taking leadership of the bowling department. Deepak, who debuted for the four-time champions in 2018, has become an integral part of the team's new ball attack with his ability to strike in the PowerPlay.

In 2022, CSK shelled out ₹14 crore to get him back at the auction, and he is the only Indian pacer with international experience in the team.

"After I made my Ranji debut in 2010, I became the leader of the attack from the second match. Whenever I am given responsibilities, I take it as a challenge," said Deepak during a chat with reporters on Tuesday.

"It is not being a leader but just that I am more experienced than others. So yesterday, I gave them a small piece of advice like applying sand in hand and wiping it properly after every ball because you sweat a lot in Chennai. Otherwise, you might bowl no-balls and give Free Hits as I had done in the past. That is the experience you can share with youngsters who have not gone through these situations," the 30-year-old, who himself struggled with the ball on Monday, explained.

In the first few years with CSK, M.S. Dhoni used to bowl Deepak for three overs, exploiting his ability to swing the ball both ways. But in this attack, the Rajasthan all-rounder has to shoulder the responsibility in the death overs as well. When asked about adapting to bowling in the back end of the innings, Deepak said he is more than ready to do the task.

"Whenever I bowled for CSK towards the end, I have done well. I actually feel good and safe bowling in the death because, in the PowerPlay, you have a new ball and just two fielders outside. But in death overs, you have an old ball with five fielders outside, so I like the challenge," he added.

Shaw extends contract at United

ANI
MANCHESTER

Luke Shaw said he wants to be part of "something special" at Manchester United after signing a new contract until 2027 on Tuesday. The 27-year-old England international has been rewarded after becoming a key player for Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford.

Spieth returns to Augusta in search of another green jacket

AUGUSTA MASTERS

Associated Press
AUGUSTA

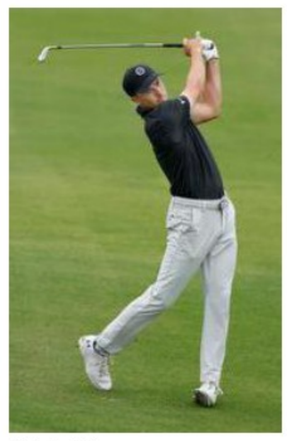
Jordan Spieth was caught in such a whirlwind after winning the Masters eight years ago, whether it was winging his way to New York for television appearances or throwing out the first pitch at a Texas Rangers game, that he never bothered to find a tailor for his green jacket.

Leave it to Augusta National, where every piece of the property is finely tailored, to take care of such details.

Yet winning a second green jacket has been an exercise not in futility so much as frustration.

In 2016, he led from the first round until the back nine on Sunday, when he blew a five-shot lead by losing six shots to par over the first three holes.

The coup de grace came at No. 12, the picturesque par-3 over Rae's Creek in the back corner of the property, where Spieth hit not just his approach into the water but his next shot as well.



Spieth. AFP

Lowest point

It was perhaps the lowest Spieth has ever felt at Augusta National, on the lowest spot on the course. The quadruple bogey cleared the way for Danny Willett, whose bogey-free final round earned him a green jacket instead.

In 2018, Spieth again led after the first round before fading on Friday and Saturday, and only a blistering final-round 64 got him within two shots of winner Patrick Reed.

He matched that third-place finish with another two years ago, when he hung around the first page of the leaderboard but never threatened winner Hideki Matsuyama.

Legitimate chances

"When I look back on the times where I've had real legitimate chances, I look at the middle two rounds of 2018 – I really could have, should have won it that year," Spieth said.

"Like, I've backdoored some of those top finishes, and I'd love to get in the mix because I feel like right now, I feel better about my game than I've felt since probably 2017."

Three-way tie promises an exciting finale

FIDE WOMEN'S GP

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

The title-race of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix is poised for an exciting finish after Aleksandra Goryachkina and Zhu Jiner caught up with Bibisara Assaubayeva in the lead at 5.5 points after the 10th and penultimate round here on Tuesday.

With Bibisara given a bye, Jiner defeated R. Vaishali and Goryachkina drew with Polina Shuvalova. Victory continued to elude the Indians with D. Harika holding Kateryna Lagno and Humpy drawing with Nino Batsiashvili.

The results (Indians unless stated): 10th round: Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 4.5) drew with D. Harika (3.5); Zhu Jiner (Chn, 5.5) bt R. Vaishali (2); K. Humpy (4) drew with Nino Batsiashvili (Geo, 3); Polina Shuvalova (FIDE, 4) drew with Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE, 5.5); Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 5.5) and Nana Dzagnidze (Geo, 2.5) bye.

Everton salvages a draw against Tottenham

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
LIVERPOOL

Michael Keane made amends for conceding a penalty by scoring off a long-range thunderbolt in the 90th minute to earn Everton a 1-1 draw with Tottenham in a feisty English Premier League game that saw both teams finish with 10 men on Monday.

Some Everton fans jumped over the advertising hoardings to celebrate Keane's dipping strike that took their team out of the relegation zone and stopped Tottenham from jumping to third place in its first match since the departure of manager Antonio Conte.

"You won't believe me," said Keane, a centre back whose rare goals typically come off headers from set-pieces, "but every now and then I hit the ball like that in training. To see one come off is amazing but honestly, after giving the penalty away, I was buzzing to score."

Thunderbolt: Centre-back Keane lets fly Everton's equaliser from distance against Tottenham. GETTY IMAGES

Harry Kane put Tottenham ahead at Goodison Park, converting a penalty past England teammate Jordan Pickford in the 68th for his 22nd goal of the season after a foul by Keane on Cristian Romero.

By that time, Kane, the England captain, was being jeered every time he touched the ball because of his central role in the sending off of Everton midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure in the 58th.

The results: Premier League: Everton 1 (Keane 90) drew with Tottenham 1 (Kane 68-pen).

LaLiga: Valencia 1 (Kluivert 81) drew with Rayo Vallecano 1 (Comesana 9).

Serie A: Empoli 1 (Caputo 62-pen) bt Lecce 0; Sassuolo 1 (Pinamonti 36) drew with Torino 1 (Sanabria 66).

Nadal, Alcaraz and Auger-Aliassime set to miss Monte Carlo Masters

TENNIS

Reuters
BERLIN

Rafael Nadal will miss next week's Monte Carlo Masters tennis after having failed to recover in time from an injury that has sidelined him for months, he said on Tuesday, shortly before top-10 players – Carlos Alcaraz and Felix Auger-Aliassime – also pulled out of the tournament.

Nadal was forced to skip the Masters 1000 event in Indian Wells last month as well as the Miami Open that ended last week, as he continues his recovery from a hip issue that ended his Australian Open title defence in the second round in January.

"Unfortunately, I am still not ready to compete and will miss one of those special tournaments I always love to play," Nadal said in a statement. The Spaniard, who has won Monte Carlo 11 times in his career, still hopes to be fit for the French Open in May, a clay court tournament he has dominated for years.

World No. 2 Alcaraz, who had an injury-plagued start to the season, was last seen in action at last week's Miami Open, where he was beaten in the semifinal by Italian Jannik Sinner.

"After two months of competing, I am happy to be back home but sad that I finished my semifinal in Miami with discomfort," the U.S. Open champion said in a post on social media.

Canadian Auger-Aliassime, ranked seventh in the world, said he has been struggling with a left knee issue. "(I) decided it was the smartest decision to take some time off so I'm able to fully heal and recover before my next tournament at the Madrid Open," Auger-Aliassime wrote on Instagram.

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